

PHILEMON 1:1-7 (NLT). “¹This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker, ²and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house. ³May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. ⁴I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, ⁵because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God’s people. ⁶And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. ⁷Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God’s people.”

 **THE BIG IDEA** 

If how we love our neighbor is _____ based on how we love God, we’re going to get it wrong

NOTICE WHAT PAUL TELLS US ABOUT HIMSELF

- He was a _____ for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus” (v. 1)

NOTICE WHAT PAUL TELLS US ABOUT PHILEMON

- He’s heard about Philemon’s _____ in the Lord (v. 5)
- He’s heard about Philemon’s _____ for all God’s people (v. 5)
- Philemon was _____ the Great Commandment!

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT - LUKE 10:27.

[JESUS] ““You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’
And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

- Notice the _____
 1. Love God
 2. Love others
- It’s super _____
- As a matter of fact, It’s _____

WHY MIGHT THIS BE SUCH A BIG DEAL?

1. We might _____ what God says is _____

“What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.” ISA 5:20

“Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong; it is knowing the difference between right and almost right.” CHARLES SPOURGEON

2. We might _____ others into _____

“You must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.” 1 COR 8:9

“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.” MATT 10:16

“I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God’s people” (v. 6-7)

“This is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.” COL 1:27