

PHILEMON 1-9 (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, and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God’s people. And 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. That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do. But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me – Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.”

LAST WEEK...If how we love our neighbor is NOT based on how we love God, we’re going to get it wrong

How we love is _____

1. We love God _____

“God is love.” 1 JN 4:8

2. So that we can love _____

“We love each other because he first loved us.” 1 JN 4:19



Biblical love is _____ whatever you/we want it to be

BIBLICAL LOVE IN PHILEMON...

• Is _____ & _____

“I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God’s people.” (v. 5)

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” 1 JN 3:16

“Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person’s ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.” C.S. LEWIS, “GOD IN THE DOCK.”

• Is _____ & _____

“Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God’s people.” (v. 7)

[JESUS] Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” JN 13:34-35

• Is _____

“That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do. But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me – Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.” (v. 8-9)

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.” EPH 5:1-2

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” JN 15:13

The Bible invites us to...

“Let love be your highest goal!” 1 COR 14:1 (NLT)