



## **Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions**

Topic: *Compassion and Justice*

Text: Philemon

Service Date: July 7, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

### **Getting Started**

- Have you ever had to participate in a court case as a witness, juror, plaintiff, defendant, etc? What was that experience like?
- What is the most powerful display of compassion that you have witnessed?

### **Sermon Discussion**

- Even when Paul was imprisoned, he still rejoiced because it was another opportunity and place where he could spread the good news of Christ. What are some places in our life that we frequent out of duty or obligation that we could better use for the Gospel?
- Paul, in his letter, praises Philemon for hosting the church, and for his great love for his fellow Christians. However, he still needs help from Paul to show that same love to Onesimus. What are some reasons why, even for us as Christians, it is difficult to be compassionate and love those who may have wronged us?
- Through this letter, Paul shows a great deal of care for Philemon, but is not afraid to correct him and steer him in the right direction. As a body of believers, we too are called to counsel and correct each other in truth and love. Do you think we do a good job of fostering relationships intentionally and following Paul's example of love and correction in the modern church?
- It is clear that the apostle Paul always has love in his heart and mind for others. How different do you think our modern issues would be if we always came with an intentional attitude of love, first and foremost?

- Just as Onesimus became useful to Paul after his salvation, we too can use our gifts for the Lord as Christians. Do you feel like you have found your own personal, unique way of being useful for God's kingdom and church body? (Encourage members to use SHAPE test on Tri-village website)
- By sending Christ to the cross, God was both perfectly just and perfectly compassionate. The suffering of Christ on the cross should show us the terrible cost of our sin. How should this change our perspective on sin in our lives?
- Paul points out when concluding his sermon that spiritually, justice is what we do deserve, but we can receive compassion. Have you ever stopped to internalize the facts of how good, loving, and compassionate our God is that not only would He send His only Son to die, but that He now welcomes us into His family? How has this or how can this change your life?
- Following our example out of Philemon, what are some practical ways we can better show compassion to others in our everyday life?

**Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?**

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit [tri-village.org/yourstory](http://tri-village.org/yourstory) and share how God worked.