



Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What is the most embarrassing thing you have done to try and impress someone?

1. Read [Colossians 3:11, 15](#). Pastor Tom mentions, "To have Jewish and non-Jewish people not just being civil and polite to each other, but actually regarding them as partners and family members was unheard of in the Roman Empire." How can we actively create genuine partnerships and familial relationships among all Jesus-followers that transcend cultural norms and prejudices?
2. Read [Colossians 3:12-15](#). Pastor Tom said, "Genuine spirituality is always evident most in how we relate to people." When do you find it easier to practice the calling to love and care for others and when is it hardest? How might you move those opposites closer together?
3. Read [Philemon 1:8-16](#). Paul appeals Philemon to change his perspective on Onesimus because he is now a brother in Christ. Who in your life, like Onesimus, betrayed or left you, but now you see God changing his/her heart? How does the change in them affect your relationship? Might it free you to forgive? To reconcile?
4. How does the forgiveness and reconciliation between Philemon and Onesimus illustrate the overflow of Jesus' forgiveness into our personal relationships? What steps can we take to integrate that same kind of forgiveness and reconciliation into our own lifestyle?
5. Who are some individuals you can turn to and trust to help navigate forgiveness and potential reconciliation in times of relationship struggles? If you don't have anyone, take some time to think about who you could ask to help you.

Day One: [Luke 24](#); [Psalm 68](#)

Day Four: [1 Thessalonians 3](#); [Jeremiah 2](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 18](#); [Proverbs 6](#)

Day Five: [Job 6](#); [Acts 12](#)

Day Three: [Hebrews 3](#); [1 Samuel 19](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

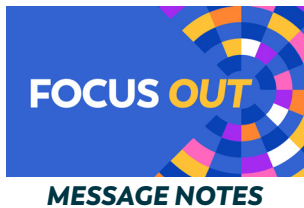


FOCUS OUT

**"MORE THAN JUST
THEORETICAL"**

Mar 17, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



"MORE THAN THEORETICAL"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Note [Colossians 3:17](#)

...when Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise alone, it will have a _____ impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

Paul wants them back then and us today to understand following Jesus and embracing His truth isn't just about learning facts in a classroom to pass a course, but it's all about seeing and _____ how Jesus, by His Spirit and truth, can radically change our lives and transform our relationships.

1. It Was More Than Just Theory for _____ Personally

Note [Colossians 4:10b-11, 7-9, 12-14](#)

To have Jewish and non-Jewish people not just being civil and polite to each other, but actually regarding them as _____ and family members was unheard of in the Roman Empire (note [Colossians 3:11, 15](#)).

And there is a significant _____ for Paul, Barnabas, and Mark (note [Acts 13:13; 15:36-40](#)).

Note [Colossians 4:10](#) and [2 Timothy 4:11](#)

Paul _____ what he preached (note [Colossians 3:12-15](#)).
Genuine spirituality is always evident _____ in how we relate to people.

2. It Was More Than Just Theory for the _____ in Colossae

Note [Colossians 4:7, 9](#)

Onesimus was a _____ to a Christian man (Philemon) in the Colossian Church.

Paul's letter to Philemon...tells the story of these 2 individuals and how Jesus transforms individual lives, _____, and even cultures.

Note [Philemon 1:4-5, 8-11](#)

Useful = Onesimus

Note [Philemon 1:12-16](#)

Paul powerfully _____ the institution of slavery in this short, personal letter:

- He calls Onesimus *his child* (_____ of God).
- He has a strong _____ with him ([Philemon 1:12](#)).
- It's a whole new relationship ([Philemon 1:15](#)).
- Philemon and Onesimus will now have a brand new, transformed _____ ([Philemon 1:16](#)).
- And instead of being _____ as a slave, he's now a *beloved brother...in the Lord*.

Note [Philemon 1:17](#)

Paul _____ Onesimus' debt, but also reminds Philemon of his debt (spiritual/eternal) to Paul (note [Philemon 1:17-19](#)).

So here in front of the whole Colossian Church stand 2 men, who according to the _____ norms of the day, were not close to equal, and one of them could be put to death for what he had done.

But because of who Jesus is and what He's done (note [Colossians 2:13-15; 3:11](#)), personal lives and relationships can be totally changed because the forgiveness Jesus provided for them _____ into our other relationships (note [Colossians 3:13-15; 3:22-4:1](#)).

And sometimes we need the help of another brother/sister to _____ this reconciliation and transformation (note [Philemon 1:1b-2; Colossians 4:17](#)).

Am I focused OUT?

- The Scriptures aren't just theory, or one _____ out of many.
- God's truth and the Holy Spirit have the _____ to change our minds and hearts and transform every relationship we have.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
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MESSAGE NOTES

"MORE THAN THEORETICAL"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Note [Colossians 3:17](#)

...when Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise alone, it will have a positive impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

Paul wants them back then and us today to understand following Jesus and embracing His truth isn't just about learning facts in a classroom to pass a course, but it's all about seeing and experiencing how Jesus, by His Spirit and truth, can radically change our lives and transform our relationships.

1. It Was More Than Just Theory for Paul Personally

Note [Colossians 4:10b-11, 7-9, 12-14](#)

To have Jewish and non-Jewish people not just being civil and polite to each other, but actually regarding them as partners and family members was unheard of in the Roman Empire (note [Colossians 3:11, 15](#)).

And there is a significant backstory for Paul, Barnabas, and Mark (note [Acts 13:13; 15:36-40](#)).

Note [Colossians 4:10](#) and [2 Timothy 4:11](#)

Paul practiced what he preached (note [Colossians 3:12-15](#)).

Genuine spirituality is always evident most in how we relate to people.

2. It Was More Than Just Theory for the Church in Colossae

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Onesimus was a slave to a Christian man (Philemon) in the Colossian Church.

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Useful = Onesimus

Note [Philemon 1:12-16](#)

Paul powerfully undercuts the institution of slavery in this short, personal letter:

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- Philemon and Onesimus will now have a brand new, transformed relationship ([Philemon 1:16](#)).
- And instead of being identified as a slave, he's now a *beloved brother...in the Lord*.

Note [Philemon 17](#)

Paul assumes Onesimus' debt, but also reminds Philemon of his debt (spiritual/eternal) to Paul (note [Philemon 1:17-19](#)).

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But because of who Jesus is and what He's done (note [Colossians 2:13-15; 3:11](#)), personal lives and relationships can be totally changed because the forgiveness Jesus provided for them overflows into our other relationships (note [Colossians 3:13-15; 3:22-4:1](#)).

And sometimes we need the help of another brother/sister to navigate this reconciliation and transformation (note [Philemon 1:1b-2; Colossians 4:17](#)).

Am I focused **OUT**?

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