

How We Are Related in Christ (Part 3)—Philemon

Greg Stiekes, Pastor

A central message in Paul's epistle to Philemon is that faith in Christ radically transforms our relationship with God as well as with other believers. When alluding to the relationship that believers share with each other, Paul uses terms which teach us how we ought to relate to each other in the body of Christ.

In Parts 1 and 2, we examined...

1. Relationships within the service of Christ.
 - a. "Fellow-prisoner" (1, 9, 23)
 - b. "Fellow-Laborer" (1, 24)
 - c. "Fellow-Soldier" (2)
2. Relationships within the family of Christ.
 - a. Paternal: the relationship of parents and children
 - (1) God is the "Father" of believers.
 - (2) Mature believers are the "parents" of those whom they disciple.

Today, we will examine a final aspect of our relationships within the family of Christ.

- b. Fraternal: the relationship between brothers and sisters. *Fraternal language signifies two spiritual convictions about our relationship with other believers:*
 - (1) The intimacy of the relationship.
 - (2) The charity of the fellowship.