

## **“Christian” Title or Testimony?**

### **The people & places behind the parchment:**

Philemon, Colossians

### **Truths from the text:**

Philemon

Our **position** in Heaven should always trump  
our **place** in life.

Not sharing our faith may mean missing out on:

- ✓ **God's plan**
- ✓ **Our purpose**

When we do wrong, we need to **make it right**.

When we've been wronged, we need to **let it go**.

### **Taking it home:**

Philemon, Matthew 5:23-24, 6:12-15, 18:15-35, Colossians 3:1, Galatians 3:28

Our **personal** relationship with Christ  
can never be just **personal**.

True Christianity will be seen in how we love those who:

- ✓ **Have wronged us**
- ✓ **Are different than us**

Truly loving others only happens when we remember that we:

- ✓ Deserved a **death penalty**
- ✓ Needed a **mediator**
- ✓ Needed our **debts paid**

# Life Group Study Questions

For the week of October 7, 2018

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

- This weekend we heard about the "second chance" story of Onesimus coming back to his hometown and church! Do you have any personal examples of a positive second chance story from your own life? If so, explain.
- When it comes to accepting others, we need to use good judgment and be careful of falling into one of two extremes – blind acceptance or critical judgement. Which one are you more likely to move towards? Have you seen your tendency change over time?
- Agree / Disagree: Our acceptance of someone directly relates to how much we value them?

## ACCEPTANCE

Understanding who we are in God's eyes and his love and acceptance of us, is foundational to understanding how to love and accept others. As you read each verse below, jot down what it says about God's love and acceptance and then number each passage from one to seven in the order most meaningful to you.

### **Romans 5:8 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Romans 3:23 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

### **Matthew 10:29-31 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

### **John 3:16 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### **Genesis 1:27 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

**Psalm 139:13-14      New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup>For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.

**1 Peter 2:9      New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Think of a person you have a hard time accepting (don't write down or say their name!). Would it make any difference if you applied these verses to them? If so, explain.

**GOING PUBLIC**

1

Followers of Jesus are called to live out God's purpose and plan to reach others for him. What is your response? (Check all that apply).

- YES!
- NO!
- Nervous
- Not sure what that means?
- Other

2

As we heard this week, sharing our faith should be a natural outflow of our commitment to Jesus. The passages below help us bring some clarity to what this can look like. As you read each passage, jot down everything each verse says about reaching and impacting others for Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23      New International Version (NIV)**

*Paul's Use of His Freedom*

<sup>19</sup>Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

**Colossians 4:2-6      New International Version (NIV)**

*Further Instructions*

<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup>And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup>Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup>Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

**John 13:34-35 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>34</sup>“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

As you look back at what you wrote, choose a symbol from below to indicate your reaction to the verses above.

- ! = On it and don't want to forget it
- \* = That sounds challenging
- ? = Not sure what that means

**TAKING IT HOME**

Looking back at this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember when it comes to living out God's purpose and plan in your life?

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT**

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out [NorthCoastCommunityService.org](http://NorthCoastCommunityService.org)



**REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience”- Oct. 26-28**

Lookin' for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic men's weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as our speakers lead us into a look at what a real man is and isn't! The weekend will also include plenty of “man” event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don't delay!

Register online at [northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend](http://northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend)