

Discussion Questions - 8/3/25

Philemon - Forget Simon. The Gospel Says...

Here are three basic questions you can always ask in any bible study:

- What does this text teach us about God?
- What does this text teach us about ourselves?
- If this text is true, what should we do to obey this teaching? This answer ought to be specific, in that it can be clearly measured.

Here are some specific questions about this text:

- Philemon needed to be reminded that Onesimus was a human being, made in God's image, and his equal. What examples can you think of in our context, where we are inclined to dehumanize and caricature one another?
- Where might the church need to be bolder, in calling out widespread practices in our society which are not in line with Kingdom values?
- The gospel shows us that nobody could owe us a greater debt than we ourselves owe. Where do you need to let go of your right to be hurt?
- Paul reflected the work of Christ by standing in between Philemon and Onesimus and helping to bring reconciliation. Where might you be called to do this kind of work personally?
- Where might the Church in the U.S. need to do the gospel work of reconciliation?