

## Surprised By Grace | Philemon 8-16

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you--I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus--I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me). I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother--especially to me, but how much more to you, not in the flesh and in the Lord.

### 1. Reconciliation involves the gospel of grace

The gospel of grace at work in Paul and Philemon

### 2. Reconciliation involves transformative grace

When we live out God's grace toward one another, God is revealed to a watching world.

### 3. Reconciliation involves restorative grace

When we are captivated by Christ and His grace, can witness and demonstrate:

- a. God's providence;
- b. Forgiveness;
- c. Restoration

## Benediction | Colossians 3:15-16

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.