

Sermon Title: "A PLEA FROM A PARTNER"

Date: February 25, 2024 - Philemon 17-25

Central Idea: We must protect the importance of partnership; we're family!
Are you helping to protect relationships in our church family?

Introduction: According to Roman law, Onesimus could have been executed for his crimes. But he had become a brother in Christ, and Philemon was encouraged to forgive him and take him back. These men have a chance to show the church what reconciliation looks like. True reconciliation is not cheap; there is a price to pay. Paul knew this and was willing to pay the price himself. Can God use you as a reconciler? Are you willing to pay the price?

Paul's express assurance that he will repay:

I. Paul's Partnership, vv. 17-19

1. Request: "Welcome him." v. 17

2. Debt: "I will repay it." vv. 18-19

II. Paul's Confidence, vv. 20-22

1. "Refresh my heart." v. 20

2. Go beyond my request. vv. 21-22

III. Paul's Greetings, vv. 23-25

Conclusion: Paul concluded all 13 of his epistles with a one-sentence benediction similar to v. 25. "Your" is plural, pointing back to those addressed in verses 1-2. These believers were already enjoying the grace that brought salvation, but here and in verse 3 Paul was concerned that they be encompassed with God's enabling grace for their daily walk before others.