

GOOD Philemon 1:10-19

I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.

I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.

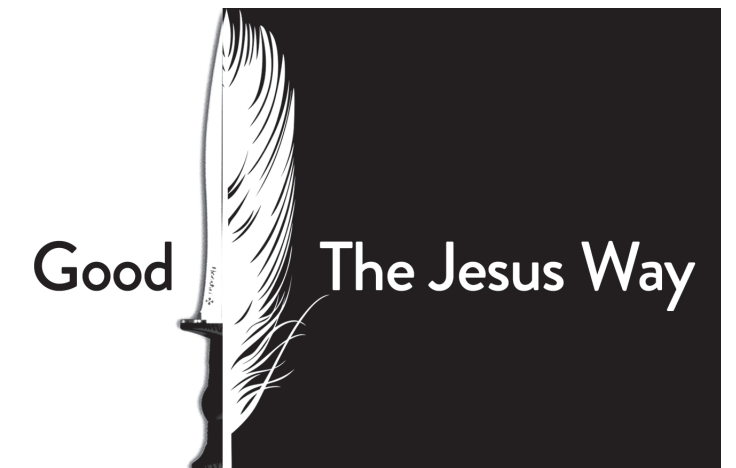
Think about a Creator God, one who has created all living things. Can you imagine that God creating something inferior? Did God create some people to be less important, less worthy, less valuable, less loved than other people? Would you be excited to worship a God who plays favorites like that? Why, or why not?

Why do you think people struggle with issues of equality? What is it about us that wants to categorize other people, building hierarchies of importance and power? Do you think that's how God intended us to think? Why or why not? How does the life of Jesus, and everything Jesus said and stood for, provide insight into God's heart?

Think about Paul's power, and Philemon's power, and Onesimus' power. Who has more? How do they use their power? What kinds of change are they personally able to affect? In what ways can Philemon can push back against systems of oppression that Onesimus cannot?

How does that play out today? Do people of privilege – for example, someone who is white, or male, or wealthy, or simply part of a home-owning family – carry special responsibility in today's world? What is that responsibility? Break it down and make it real practical. How can you use your privilege on behalf of those who need it?

Who is Onesimus in your life? Who have you failed to recognize as equal, and why? How does Paul's letter to Philemon affect or inspire you? What would it take for you to show up differently in that relationship? What changes when we treat everyone like a beloved member of our family? Is that even possible? Why, or why not?



WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

Boxes

Let Everything

MESSAGE: **Nathan Lyke**

Goodness of God

Who You Say I Am

Go in peace, and remember that you are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

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BOXES

Mia Fieldes, David Leonard, Jessie Early, Kim Walker-Smith
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Verse 1

I'm leaping over a thousand fences
And runnin' like a child in open fields
I'm leavin' comfort to chase Your presence
That wind I felt before I wanna feel

Chorus

I'm not bound not bound to boxes
Since the fire of the Holy Ghost got a hold of me
This wild freedom nothing can stop it
Since the fire of the Holy Ghost got a hold of me

Verse 2

It might look crazy from the outside
But I was born again to blaze a trail
Some say I'm foolish but I'm doing just fine
Gotta history that proves You never fail
(Chorus)

Bridge 1

You're breakin' off disappointment
reminding me where my joy is
I'm stepping into something new
(2x)

Bridge 2

You're throwing off expectations,
You're breaking down limitations
I'm stepping into something new
You're throwing off expectations,
You're kicking down limitations
I'm stepping into something new
(Chorus)

Bridge 3

I'm breakin' off disappointment
I'm digging my heels where joy is
Since the fire of the Holy Ghost got a hold of me
I'm throwing off expectations,
I'm kicking down limitations
Since the fire of the Holy Ghost got a hold of me

Tag

Yeah the fire of the Holy Ghost got a hold of me

LET EVERYTHING

Jacob Sooter, Meredith Andrews, Patrick Mayberry
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Verse 1

We enter Your presence;
through the gates of praise
We're ready for Heaven;
to fall on Your children in a mighty way

Verse 2

We're bringing our worship;
as an offering Holy and pleasing;
hear Your people singing out to You

Chorus

Great is the Lord; worthy of praise;
the Lion of Judah; the Ancient of Days
Let everything that has breath; praise the Lord
The One who remains faithful and true;
the Lamb who was slain
To make all things new;
let everything that has a breath praise the Lord

Verse 3

So let our intentions be pure in Your sight;
our hearts undivided
A Church and a Bride that is wholly yours
(Chorus)

Bridge

To the God who is worthy; be honor and glory;
No One's more deserving of all praise
To the King who's returning be honor and glory;
No One's more deserving of all praise
(2x, Chorus)

Tag

Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord;
Praise the Lord

GOODNESS OF GOD

Ben Fielding, Ed Cash, Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jason Ingram
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Verse 1

I love You, Lord, oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice,
You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father,
I've known You as a Friend
I have lived in the goodness of God
(Chorus)

Bridge

Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me
With my life laid down,
I'm surrendered now,
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me
(Bridge 2x, Chorus 2x)

Tag

Oh I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

WHO YOU SAY I AM

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Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me, Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me,
yes He died for me
(Chorus 1)

Chorus 2

In my Father's house there's a place for me
I'm a child of God yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken,
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me,
I am who You say I am
(2x)

Tag

I am who You say I am
(Chorus 1, Chorus 2 – 2x)

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.