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GRACED

(Philemon)

*“(praying)…that you, in the sharing of our common faith, will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” (Phm 6)*

How should “every good thing we have in Christ” shape the way we treat people who have wronged us?

*The story of Onesimus and the ethical elephant in the room🡪* SLAVERY

What gets in the way of allowing the gospel to repair our relationships?

* Competition junkies
* Prideful addiction to determining blame
* Grace-blindedness

Honouring “every good thing we have in Christ”…

* The gospel, not coercion, really frees us to do what is right (14).

-to love, grace, mercy, justice

* When relationship restoration between estranged believers is treated by the church as urgent, the cycle of evil in communities is halted (4, 5, 17).
* Real forgiveness requires replacing anger with real reconciliation/ relationship restoration (15).

-requires the humility to perceive the hand of God at work in uncomfortable situations (cf. Gen. 50:20)

* So healing can happen, restitution may be required, but for restoration and not retribution (18-19).

-you must be able to translate yourself into the place of a debtor hoping for healing

* As it relates to advancing the gospel, the church must view herself as an outrageously gracious unprivatized community (2, 3).

-the work of redemption should not be done in secret