

October 15, 2006



Keys to Relational Success Philemon

- How well do we manage our relationships? In the book of Philemon, Paul gives us keys to relational success.
- The letter is written by the Apostle Paul to a friend of his named **Philemon** who he had led to faith in Christ. **Onesimus** was a **slave** who belonged to Philemon. He'd run away and made his way to **Rome**. Onesimus runs into Paul of all people. Paul leads Onesimus to **Christ** and now writes Philemon and asks him to **forgive** Onesimus and take him back as a **brother** in Christ.
- The quality of a relationship can only be fully tested in **troubles** and **trials**.

First Key—Great Relationships Are Based on **Love**. Vs 1-9

■ Can you feel the love?

📖 Philemon 1:19

■ What about loving people who are **unlovely**?

- ◇ The selflessness Paul is asking of Philemon should be the norm for a Christian. We might call it **loving living**.
- ◇ Jesus called us to **unconventional** living. 📖 Matthew 5:43-48

The Second Key Is **Foresight**. Vs 10-14

■ It's easier to **start** a relationship than to **build** it.

- ◇ Things will not always just magically become alright without some energy or effort being exerted on our part. We must **make them right**. 📖 Proverbs 22:3

■ Paul was **proactive**.

When we establish meaningful relationships we should expect to pay a price to **protect** and **perpetuate** them.

The Third Key Is **Forgiveness**. Vs 15-25

■ **Requests** for forgiveness and **acts** of forgiveness are essential in any lasting relationship. 📖 Colossians 3:12-13

■ **Forgiveness** allows the relationship to go to **another level**.

📖 Ephesians 4:31-32

Next week: "You Make Me So Mad"