

sermon notes

August 30, 2026 | Mitchell Palermo, Messiah Bible Church | **Philemon**
"Mind the Mission" | **Philemon 17–25**

Three ways disunity distracts from the church's mission:

1) Ruins _____ (v17–20)

2) Hinders _____ (v21–22)

3) Minimizes _____ (v23–25)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

Go Deeper

- In the midst of a conflict, being convinced that you're "right" can make you feel superior. Does being "right" make one superior? How does the gospel affect our posture or tone during conflict?
- What are the pitfalls of believing that pastors and leaders are the ones tasked with *doing* ministry while the congregation receives ministry? Why does the entire church need to be involved?

Get Personal

- Is there someone that you need to reconcile with now? If no one comes to mind can you think of a situation in the past where you've been distracted by disunity? Did that distraction affect your gospel work?
- It's easy to see how Onesimus might struggle with shame after being welcomed back into the church. How would you counsel Onesimus if he struggled to move past his sin? What scriptures would you point him to? What practical steps could the church take to help him to move past his shame?
- How does hospitality factor into the church's mission? How are you showing hospitality now? Is there something holding you back?

Advanced

- How can a church prepare itself for complex situations like the one found in the book of Philemon? What steps could leaders in the church take to preserve unity and focus on the mission of the church?
- Philemon is a very short book, but it packs a punch. Considering the book of Philemon as a whole how would you summarize its message in one sentence? One word? Which elements of Paul's letter stood out to you?