

A New Family
Sept 6, 2009
Philemon 17-25
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Synopsis:

Paul's letter to Philemon is about the gospel transforming social relationships. Paul sends a runaway slave, Onesimus, back to his former owner, Philemon, to become no longer a slave but a beloved brother (v16) in the Christ family.

God has changed our status through acting in Jesus the Christ. We are now Christ family members. Now we have to *think differently!*

Through the grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, we are members of the Christ family.

Now we also must *act differently!*

I.

The Basis for Acting Differently

Phil 4 Grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

CHANGE MY STATUS 30 YEARS AGO (PIC)

Two different ways of looking at our change in status

1. EF Hutton: Gospel of Good Works

- “We make money the old fashioned way, WE EARN IT”
- We earn out status!

2. Tom Black Baseball Team: Gospel of Grace and Peace

- On the team, now act like it
- e.g. met to show how to dress, act, etc. (Laurence House)
- Don't *earn* our status, but *act like* our status

Two different bases for acting: Earn it or Grace

READ 1-3

- Every Pauline letter begins with “grace and peace”
- We skip over this, but it is a gospel proclamation
- All Greek letters begin with “greetings”

READ Philemon 3

- *Play on words: Paul changes the normal greeting
- Greek letters *kara* = greetings/joy
- Paul's letters *karis* = grace
- Two letters and a huge shift!

*Then Paul adds *peace = irenay/Shalom* (Hebrew)

Grace and peace *from* God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

*Gift establishes our status = new family

SUM: *Who* we are determines *What* we do

You are Tom Black players

ACT LIKE IT!

Because God the Father (OT) has acted in Jesus. You are Christ Family members

ACT LIKE IT!

II.

Acting Differently

Phil 4 When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God

CHANGE OUR STATUS IN CHRIST FAMILY

We have to learn to live in a new family

ACT LIKE IT!

I went through Paul's letter to Philemon and tried to list all the verbs, actions that Paul either did or called Philemon and Onesimus to do based upon their change in status.

There were 16 action words (at least)

You job today: Listen for the Holy Spirit and pick one to do

1. Remember/Thank Verse 4
2. Pray for Verse 4
3. Love the saints Verse 5
4. Faith/Trust in Jesus Verse 5
5. Do good in Christ Verse 6
6. Give joy Verse 7
7. Encourage someone Verse 7
8. Adopt someone Verse 10
9. Reconcile someone Verse 12
10. Welcome someone Verse 17
11. Pay someone back Verse 19
12. Benefit someone Verse 20
13. Refresh someone Verse 20

