

# PHILEMON

## A Lesson on How to Get Along

*(The Apostle Paul was one who was guided in his work by the Holy Spirit, and it is evident in his letter that he had the Spirit of Christ in him.)*

### **COURTESY** (all through letter)

Courtesy is to be exhibited in all matters. It is a matter of civility.  
Peaceful entreaty--not demanding, intimidating, or forcing compliance.

### **ABILITY TO PRAISE ANOTHER'S GOOD WORKS** (4-7)

Not flattery, which is given insincerely to gain an advantage.  
Not running down, which is done to elevate self.  
But being objective about the efforts of others.  
When one does good, he, or she, deserves proper recognition for such.

### **SUPPRESSION OF OWN DESIRES, FOR BENEFIT OF ALL CONCERNED** (13-14)

Paul wasn't only concerned about himself, but Philemon and Onesimus as well.  
In dealing with others "what is best for all concerned," is to be of prime concern.  
Individuals must be willing to "go along" and cooperate with others when their own wants or preferences are rejected in favor of something else.  
Individuals who fail to get along have bad case of "MY-itis", or "I-itis."  
"My idea," "my way," "my feelings."  
"I don't like," "I want," "I would rather," "I demand."

### **EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN OTHERS** (21)

Some refrain from doing this, afraid someone will become puffed up.  
By not expressing confidence in others, we fail to bring out the best in them.  
Expressing confidence helps others to do their best.  
"I know you can" "I know I can count on you" "I know you will."

### **NEGATIVE COMMANDS, BY THEIR NATURE, DISSUADE OR DISCOURAGE**

They are to be used to stop improper behavior.  
When used in an attempt to motivate, they become counter productive.  
Paul expressed confidence in Philemon that he could be counted on to deal rightly with Onesimus.

### **USE OF TACT IN DEALING WITH OTHERS**

Tact (defined): a quick appreciation of what is fitting, proper, or right; facility in saying or doing the proper thing.  
There is no excuse to run rough-shod over another's feelings, desires, or views.  
Such only tends to alienate others.

### **NOT WILLING FOR A BROTHER TO SUFFER WRONG** (18)

A willingness to settle accounts.  
Always dealing honestly and fairly with others.

### **INTERCESSION**

Paul writes on behalf of another.  
We are to aid one another whenever possible, thereby demonstrating our concern.