

Beyond Sunday

Title: **Faith Becoming Practice**

Preacher: **Mark Tumney**

Bible Verse(s): **Book of Philemon**

Date: **November 1, 2026**

GATHER

These questions help us build connections with one another as we share personal experiences.

- Have you ever had to change your perspective about someone after getting to know their story better? What changed?
- Think of someone who has made you feel genuinely welcomed or included. What did they do that made you feel that way?

GROW

These questions guide us through the Scripture from Sunday's sermon, helping us observe the text and understand more deeply what Jesus is teaching.

Read Philemon 1–21 together.

1. Looking at verses 1-10:

- How does Paul describe Philemon's faith and love? What does he pray will happen as Philemon grows in his partnership in the faith?
- Why do you think Paul chooses to appeal to Philemon on the basis of love rather than simply command him to do what is right?

2. Consider verses 11-16:

- Paul describes Onesimus as "my very heart" and asks Philemon to receive him "no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother." What is changing about how Onesimus is being seen and valued?
- What would it have meant for Philemon to receive Onesimus as a brother rather than as someone under his authority?

3. Read verse 17-19:

- Paul says, "Welcome him as you would welcome me" and offers to pay whatever Onesimus owes. What does Paul's willingness to absorb the cost reveal about reconciliation?
- How does Paul's request point us toward what Jesus has done for us through the cross?

4. Looking at both Galatians 3:28 and Philemon 16

- How does our identity in Christ challenge the ways society divides people by status, background, or position?
- What might it look like for the church to live out this truth so that there are no first-class or second-class members of God's family?

GIVE / GO

These questions help us apply the sermon's takeaways and consider how God is calling us to respond.

1. Application

We have been forgiven, welcomed, and given a place in God's family through Jesus. How should receiving that grace change the way we see, welcome, forgive, or treat others? Is there a relationship or situation where you need to practice seeing someone with Kingdom eyes?

2. Faithful Step

The sermon challenges us to consider what we are protecting from the claims of Jesus. What is one practical step you can take this week to make your faith visible—even if it costs you some comfort, control, money, or influence?

PRAYER

Group Prayer Question:

How can we be praying for you as you seek to let God's Word change an

Close by praying:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

GOING DEEPER

If you are interested in exploring the themes of this week a bit deeper, consider one of these:

Video

Book of Philemon by the Bible Project

https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-philemon/

Book

Unoffendable by Brant Hansen

https://a.co/d/04e3ccli

Practice

The Practice of Welcome

This week, intentionally make room for someone you might not naturally gravitate toward.

- Invite someone into a conversation or meal.
- Look for someone who may feel overlooked or disconnected.
- Practice listening to someone's story before making assumptions.
- Consider what you might need to give up to make room for someone else.