

“18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
Romans 12:18-21

MAKING RELATIONSHIPS WORK

Messy Love
Pastor Steve Reynolds

C. Step 3: Working Through _____ (vs 15-19)

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”
Colossians 3:13

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”
Ephesians 4:32

D. Step 4: Working Through _____ (vs 20-25)

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”
Ephesians 4:25

“11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”
Proverbs 31:11-12

CONCLUSION:

What step(s) will you take to make your relationships work?

I will...

INTRODUCTION

A. Let's face it, no one likes being involved in a messy relationship – the emotional scarring, the insults, the mind games, the hurts; it all starts to get to you after a while.

“3 Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me.

4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.

5 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

6 And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

7 Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah.”
Psalm 55:3-7

B. God shows us the steps to making relationships work. In this series, you will learn four Biblical steps to maintaining love from the book of Philemon.

TODAY	Messy Love
February 20	Working Through Communication
February 27	Working Through Conflict
March 6	Working Through Forgiveness
March 13	Working Through Trust

The goal of this series is to show you how to make your relationships work.

C. TEXT: Philemon 1-25 (Pew Bible/Page 220/New Testament)

Philemon has been called a “Postcard With A Punch”. Though it contains only 25 verses, the contents of these verses are quite powerful and emphasize maintaining love. Six times the word “love” (vs 5, 7 & 9) or “beloved” (vs 1, 2 & 16) is used here.

MAKING SENSE OF MESSY LOVE

I. THE _____ OF MESSY LOVE

Philemon describes the problem of “messy love” between Paul, Philemon and Onesimus:

Note: These three men were spiritual “brothers”
(vs 1, 7, 16 & 20).

“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”
I Thessalonians 4:9

A. The _____ Of Philemon: Paul (v 1a)

- Paul was a _____.
- Paul was a _____.
- Paul was a _____.

B. The _____ Of Philemon: Philemon (v 1b)

- Philemon was _____.
- Philemon was _____.
- Philemon was _____.

C. The _____ For Philemon: Onesimus (v 10a)

- Onesimus was a _____.
- Onesimus was a _____.
- Onesimus was _____.

Why Do We Often Experience Messy Love?

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” Romans 3:10

1. We _____ From Each Other
2. We _____ With Each Other
3. We _____ Each Other
4. We _____ From Each Other

II. THE _____ TO MESSY LOVE

Philemon prescribes the solution to “messy love” in four steps:

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”
Philippians 4:13

A. Step 1: Working Through _____ (vs 1-7)

“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:”
I Peter 3:10

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
Ephesians 4:29

B. Step 2: Working Through _____ (vs 8-14)

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”
Matthew 18:15