

Burned: Week 1

6/28/20

Bible Reference:

Philemon 1:1-25 (the whole book)

How we respond to being burned by another person can...

- reveal what we _____ to be true about some of the most important _____ in life.
- put our _____ health at risk.
- provide us with an _____ to grow deeper in our _____.
- provide us with an _____ to present Christianity in a truly _____ way to a watching world.

When we give into the temptation to go resentful, or bitter, or vengeful it will...

- cause the spiritual _____ to be _____.
- act like a _____ that keeps us from growing deeper in _____ and from _____ what God has done up to this point.
- _____ our ability to be productive in _____ moving forward.

Paul asks Philemon to say “no” to resentment and bitterness and revenge, and to instead say “yes” to _____ and

_____ and _____ and _____.

Reflection Questions:

- How familiar were you with the details of the story in the book of Philemon prior to Sunday?
- In what ways was Philemon burned by Onesimus, and how do you think Philemon felt about it?
- Without throwing someone we know under the bus, do you have a way that you've felt burned in the past or are maybe even struggling with now?
- How we respond to being burned by another person can...
 - reveal what we believe to be true about some of the most important concepts in life.
 - put our spiritual health at risk.
 - provide us with an opportunity to grow deeper in our spiritually.
 - provide us with an opportunity to present Christianity in a truly compelling way to a watching world.

Do you really think how we respond to being burned can do all of these things? Why or why not?

- When we feel burned, we are tempted to give into the temptation to go resentful, or bitter, or vengeful. How much do you struggle with these responses when you feel burned?
- On Sunday, we said that these responses can...
 - cause the spiritual momentum to be lost.
 - act like a roadblock that keeps us from growing deeper in faith and from appreciating what God has done up to this point.
 - cripple our ability to be productive in ministry moving forward.
- Why do you think those responses have these kinds of effects?
- Have you ever, or are you now, experiencing some of that?
- Paul asks Philemon to say “no” to resentment and bitterness and revenge, and to instead say “yes” to grace and mercy and forgiveness and reconciliation.
 - Why would that have been hard for Philemon?
 - Why is that hard for us?

