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Philemon: Reconciling Grace  
REV. JOSH DESCH  
NEPC SERMON SERIES  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

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**Sermon Title:** “The Carrot or the Stick?”  
(#3 in the Sermon Series)

**Scripture text:** Philemon 8-11

**Main Points:**

1. What are the two ways to get anybody to do anything?
2. Why is one more powerful than another?
3. How does God change our name like Onesimus?

**Questions:**

1. **Ice Breaker Question** – What are some examples in our society of people trying to persuade us? What are some examples where people command us?
2. **Transition Question** – Why do you think Paul didn’t command Philemon to forgive Onesimus and be reconciled with him? Wouldn’t that have been easier?
3. **Observation Question** – Why does Paul call Onesimus his child? What does he mean and what is the significance of that designation for Philemon?
4. **Interpretation Question** – In verse nine, the Greek word translated “old man” can also be translated “ambassador.” What different shades of nuance do we get from each translation?
5. **Reflection Question** — Why will Heaven be a place of love and appeal instead of a place of coercion and power? What does this mean for the church in the present?
6. **Application Question** – If Paul had a comprehensive view of your life, how might he appeal to you for love’s sake so that you might grow in your walk and contribute more to God’s Kingdom?

