



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

PREPARING THE GUEST ROOM

A Study in the Purposeful Affection of the Body of Christ



... prepare a guest room for me.

Philemon 1:22

Three Important Items in our Story

1. The Splagchnon
2. The Phileō
3. The Adelphos

The Story in a Nutshell

When The Phileō reaches The Adelphos it reveals The Splagchnon

Okay, Maybe I Can Supply a Little Help

1. The Splagchnon (the intestines, the bowels, the sincerest tenderest affections of God)
2. The Phileō (the holy kiss - a tender expression of loving affection, a physical token of brotherly love, a symbol of friendship, an outward sign of deep heartfelt kinship)
3. The Adelphos (the brethren, those that come from the same womb)

So, Let's Try this Again

The Story in a Nutshell

When ***The Phileō*** (the Holy Kiss) reaches ***The Adelphos*** (The Brethren)
it reveals ***The Splugchnon*** (The Sincerest Affections of God)

By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another**.

John 13:35

And above all things **have fervent love for one another**, for love will cover a multitude
of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

Our Kiss is an Outward Evidence of an Inward Reality

- Baptism - We are IN Christ by faith
- Communion - Christ is IN us by faith
- The Kiss of the Church - Christ's Love is real and active in and through us by faith

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who
does not love his brother abides in death.

1 John 3:14

And, Now Put on These Glasses and it Might Make it Clearer

1. The Splugchnon - *Paul*
2. The Phileō - *Philemon*
3. The Adelphos - *Onesimus*

So, Let's Try this Yet Again

The Story in a Nutshell

*When Philemon greets Onesimus with a Holy Kiss,
the Splagchnon of Paul - which comes from God - is revealed*

1. The Splagchnon - *Paul* (*The Amazing Picture of God's Affectionate Leadership Over Us*)

Paul

Philippians 1:8: For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels (splagchnon) of Jesus Christ.

Philemon

Colossians 3:12: Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies (splagchnon)

Philemon 1:7: For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels (splagchnon) of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother

Onesimus

Philemon 1:12: Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels (splagchnon)

Philemon

Philemon 1:20: Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels (splagchnon) in the Lord.

2. The Phileō - *Philemon* (*The Guy that Kisses, Mr. Kissy Face*)

Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him . . .

Acts 20:37

Romans 16:16: Salute one another with an holy Phileō.

1 Corinthians 16:20: Greet ye one another with an holy Phileō.

2 Corinthians 13:12: Greet one another with an holy Phileō.

1 Peter 5:14: Greet one another with a Phileō of love.

1 Thessalonians 5:26: Greet all the brethren with an holy Phileō.

Aussie Awkwardness *and* Dan and the Russian Kisses

Greet all the brethren with an holy Phileō.

1 Thessalonians 5:26

Who are These That We are to Kiss?

3. The Adelphos - *Onesimus (the brethren)*

The Brethren - The Adelphos - the twice-born of the same spiritual womb, those that believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, have the same Heavenly Father and share an inextricable and undeniable kinship.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love **The Adelphos**. He who does not love **The Adelphos** abides in death . . . By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for **The Adelphos**. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees **The Adelphos** in need, and shuts up his heart from (them), how does the love of God abide in him? . . . If someone says, "I love God," and hates **The Adelphos**, he is a liar; for he who does not love **The Adelphos** whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love **The Adelphos** also.

1 John 3:14,16-17; 4:20-21

The Story of an Ancient “Kissing” Church

Location: Colossae (southwestern Turkey)

Characters:

1. Paul - Imprisoned in Ephesus

2. Philemon - Hosting a house church in Colossae
3. Onesimus - Once a slave, but no more

Onēsimos - O-nā'-sē-mos (Strong's G3682)

One who is useful, One who is profitable to another, One who brings benefit and joy

Onesimus #1 - one who robs from Philemon, steals joy from his family and flees Colossae for his own benefit

Onesimus #2 - one who is useful to Paul, profits the Family of God, and returns to Colossae to benefit and bring joy to Philemon and the Church

I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.

Philemon 1:10-11

Yes, brother, I want some benefit (oninēmi) from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Philemon 1:20

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother. Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you--being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ-- I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might

receive him forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave--a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay--not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides. Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Philemon 1:1-25

A Different Lens on the Same Story

Characters:

1. Paul - A Picture of Christ
2. Philemon - You and me
3. Onesimus - That one person in the Body that we have good reason to reject

I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel.

Philemon 1:12-13

But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave--a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay--not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides.

Philemon 1:14-19

Introducing the Guest Room

If then you count me as a partner (koinōnos), receive him as you would me . . . prepare a guest room for me.

Philemon 1:17,22

The Phileō Gospel

a.k.a. - The Gospel of the Kiss

We were all philautos (lovers, kissers of ourselves), philargyria (lovers, kissers of money), philēdonos (lovers, kissers of pleasure) and not philotheos (lovers, kissers of God). But because of Jesus, we have been transformed. When we believe in Jesus Christ He transforms us. He touches us in the very center of our affections and changes them so that we genuinely and rightly Phileō. We become true philotheos (lovers, kissers of God) and He changes each one of us into philadelphos (lovers, kissers of the Brethren).

Philadelphia

the Tender Kisses of the Church

Be kindly affectionate to one another **with brotherly love**, in honor giving preference to one another . . .

Romans 12:10

But concerning **brotherly love** you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another . . .

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Let **brotherly love** continue.

Hebrews 13:1

Incorrigibly Cheerful vs. Incorporrigibly Kissy

12 Ways We Can Prepare A Guest Room for the Brethren

Based on the Pattern of How He Prepared a Guest Room For Us

1. **Choose to become small and weak** - make others important, encourage, inspire, exhort, give words of life
2. **Choose to be overlooked, under-appreciated, and rejected** - appreciate others, make sure no one is forgotten, make sure the hurting are healed, the overlooked are seen - don't let a single person in the church go unloved and unappreciated
3. **Choose to take a low place, even in humble circumstances with humble people** - treat others as if they are royalty, as if their life is significant, look past the ugliness of the down-and-out, the smell of the unshowered, the roughness of the socially ungroomed
4. **Choose to forgive** - forgive others their mistakes, their failures, their weaknesses, no matter how grotesque, no matter how intentional - let each and every hurt that comes your way be transformed instantly into fertilizer for your soul.
5. **Choose to submit** - submit to those assigned to your spiritual care, listen to them, honor them, respect them, and love them with your words and your thoughts. Pray for their weaknesses, but encourage their strengths. Lift up their hands in the battle for Truth.
6. **Choose to suffer** - receive suffering as a gift and don't complain about it. Don't let personal suffering turn you inward and rob the flow of love through you towards the Body of Christ. But instead, let suffering refine you, mature you, and teach you obedience. Let suffering grow you up and explain to you the love of God more perfectly.
7. **Choose to be silent** - In the moments when your words would hurt others, be silent. In the times when your words might slight or offend, remain quiet. In the seasons when your critique might diminish and divide the Body of Christ - command your tongue into a place of loving stillness, until God corrects and then releases you to speak the words that edify and sweeten the souls of the Body.
8. **Choose to love**
9. **Choose to receive the nails**
10. **Choose to share all that you have**
11. **Choose to rejoice**

12. Choose to allow the Splagchnon affection of Christ to flow, without cap

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Psalm 119:165

Kataphileō - to kiss much, kiss again and again, kiss tenderly, to kiss earnestly

And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

Luke 15:20

(She) stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil . . . You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

Luke 7:38, 45

Are You Ready to Be Incurribly Affectionate?

. . . prepare a guest room for me.

Philemon 1:22