

**New Beginnings May Be
Uncomfortable
Philemon 1: 8-25**

August 22, 2021

Paul to Philemon:

Onesimus is changed, changed by Christ, I am asking you to forgive and restore

Many people desire to be forgiven, many have remorse, but are not really changed -

They have not dealt with underlying issues and return to their old way over and over

This is an ABUSIVE PATTERN!



Forgiveness, by the hurt party, can be given to free them from the torturers

However, restoration is not automatic

Real change must be demonstrated over time for restoration to occur

The abuser and the abused must get help and not deny the problem!

THERE IS HOPE!

***GOD IS A MASTER AT
START OVERS!!***

The grace of God knows no bounds

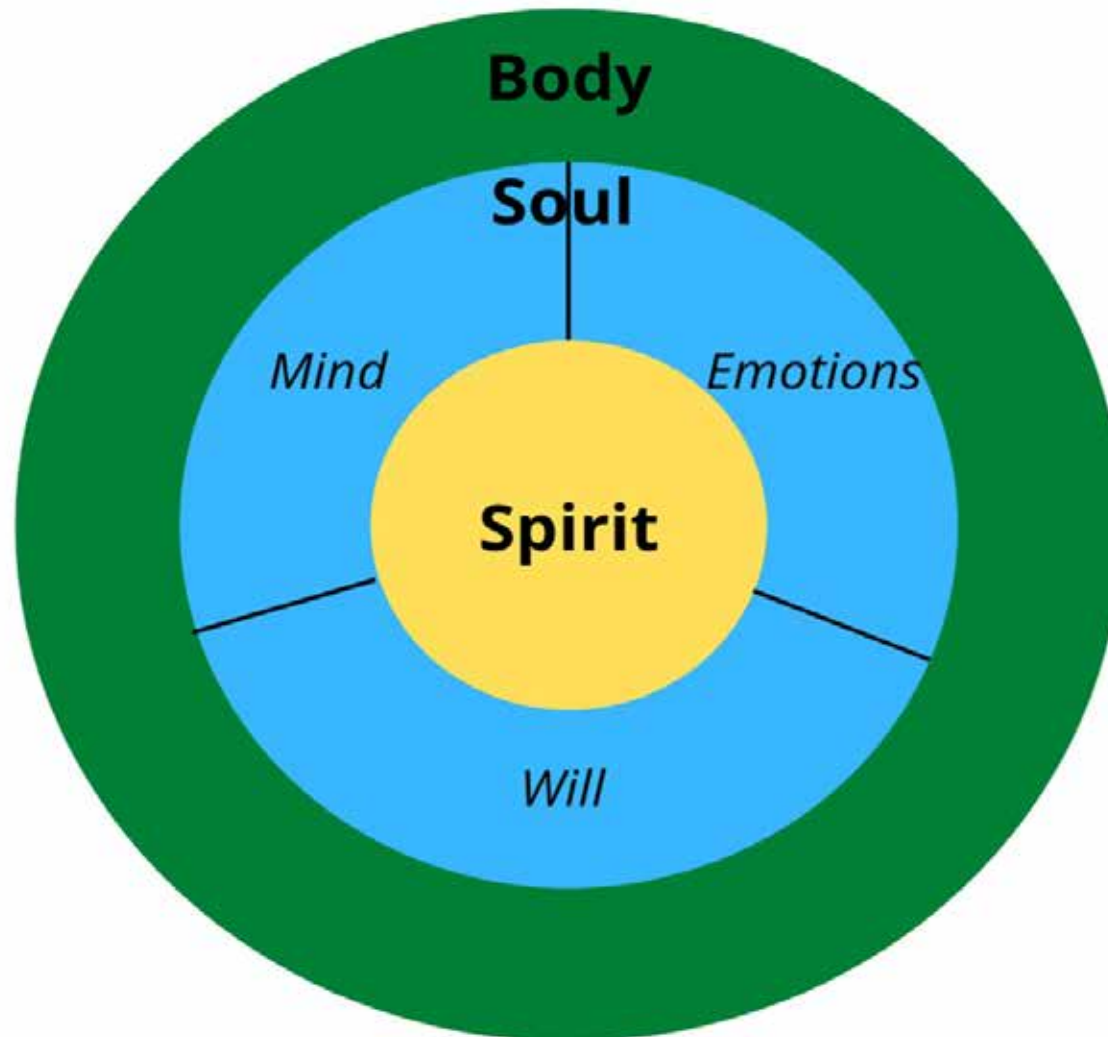
***God's grace is greater
than all our sins!***

Verse 8 - 11

**Philemon may feel
uncomfortable**

We are made in the image of God with feelings and emotions (*SOUL*)

Tripartite nature



At the fall, our feelings and emotions were tainted and controlled by our old nature

Do not allow your feelings to rule you!



Inpiration

If facts and faith conflict with my feelings, I do not follow my feelings

The Holy Spirit will “guide us into all truth” – John 16: 13

The Holy Spirit will guard us from acting in our old nature

YES, YOU CAN change your script – you can respond differently

The Holy Spirit is in Philemon to guide him to forgive, *even if it is uncomfortable!*

**Your Christian life is all about change –
*from flesh driven to Spirit driven!***

**Your flesh will fight against any
uncomfortable changes**

**Your flesh wants its way – *it loves the
status quo!***

**The flesh dies hard; *it always wants to
pop up and control!***



**The only way to deal with
MR./MRS. Flesh:**

CRUCIFY

KILL

Galatians 5: 24


Verse 12 - 14

**Onesimus may feel
uncomfortable**

**Onesimus is returning to his
master after stealing from him –
*UNCOMFORTABLE!***

**Principle: It is always difficult and
uncomfortable to do the
right thing**

***Do not allow your feelings to
rule you!***



There are only two options:
make progress or make excuses.

Unknown

Verse 15 - 16

**God can use the uncomfortable
for His good**

An uncomfortable Philemon, An uncomfortable Onesimus,

- Both acting contrary to their feelings
- Both were changed by Jesus
- Both were rescued from the sea of sin and are now brothers!

God brings *unity!*

**The world, the flesh and the devil
*divide!***



God uses uncomfortable
situations for *HIS glory!*

***HE DOES THIS ALL
THE TIME!***

Verse 17 - 22

**Paul ramps up the
uncomfortable pressure**

Philemon had to forgive –

Jesus said so!

Forgiveness is the Jesus way!

Forgiveness is good and healthy for you!

Remember: An unforgiving spirit is a bitter, tortured spirit

A healthy soul is a forgiving soul!

Verse 23 - 25

Closing: There are fellow
warriors who are uncomfortable

In this culture fight,
you are not the Lone Ranger



**There are men and women who stand
like a bull in a blizzard in a world that
hates them**

It will be uncomfortable here -

JESUS SAID SO!

John 15: 19

**The Church in the west has an
aversion, a disdain, for being
uncomfortable**

Laodiceans are never uncomfortable!

For the True Church:

- 1) It is uncomfortable to *live not by lies*
- 2) It is uncomfortable to not *be silenced*
- 3) It is uncomfortable to *see, judge, act*

Nevertheless, God asks us to STAND!

Ephesians 6: 13

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

***IT IS A GREAT COMFORT TO KNOW
THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE!***

**For all who feel alone, distressed and
uncomfortable with life:**

**Hear the Word of the LORD to you
1 Kings 19: 11-18**

**You are not alone; *God and you
are a majority!***

In a culture that wants you silenced
SPEAK THE TRUTH!!

One word of truth can dispel a
world of lies

Allow Paul's words to encourage
you:

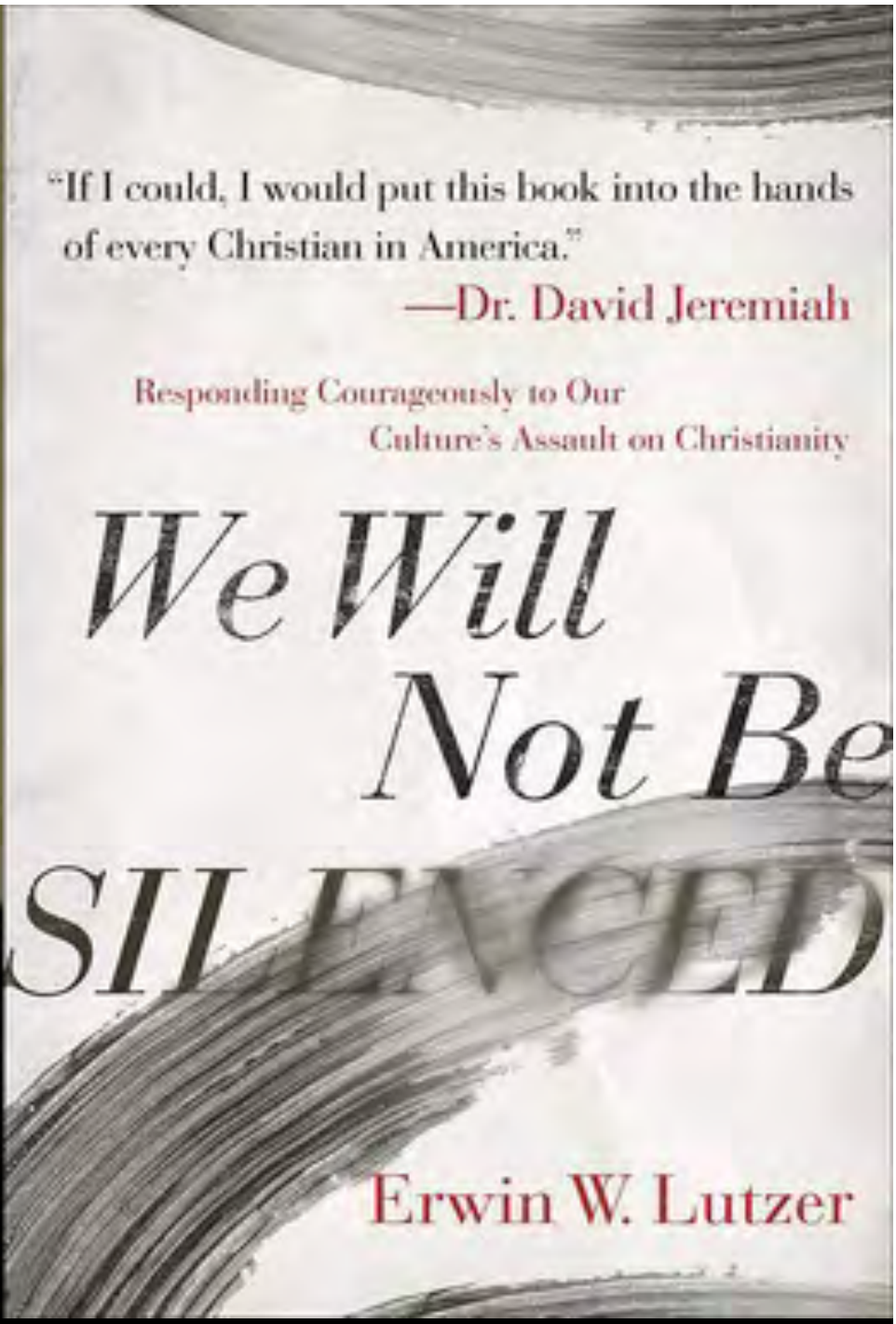
Ephesians 6: 19-20

In our uncomfortable world, may you stand, *immovable with the truth!*

May you *fearlessly proclaim to all the mystery of the Gospel!*

WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED!

WE MUST NOT BE SILENCED!!



80 years old and *still faithful!*

This is our time - *an uncomfortable time!*

**MAY WE BE FOUND FAITHFUL
AND STRENGTHEN WHAT
REMAINS!!**

**NEW BEGINNINGS WILL BE
UNCOMFORTABLE!!**