

For Love's Sake

⁹ "Yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—...¹⁰ ... for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains,"



- → Author: Paul Phm 1,9,10,13,23;
 - During first imprisonment in Rome, about 62,63 AD (Col. 4:18; Eph. 3:1; Phili. 1:12-14; Acts 28:30,31)
 - About the same time as Colossians
 —with Timothy (Phm 1; Col 1:1) &
 Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas,
 & Luke (Phm 23; Col. 4:10-14)
 - Onesimus delivered both Col 4:7-9



- > Philemon (1)
 - Beloved friend & fellow laborer (1)
 - A faithful, loving & hospitable Christian (5-6) —
 - One of Paul's own converts. (19)
- → Apphia (2) Possibly Philemon's wife
- ➤ Archippus A Minister of the gospel (Col 4:17) - Some think Philemon's son.



- > Onesimus (10)
 - > Philemon's slave. (16)
 - > Ran away. (15, 18)
 - After traveling to Rome, converted to Christ. (10)
 - Very dear and useful to Paul. (11-13 and Col 4:10)



- Forgiveness; Reconciliation;
 Redemption (8-16)
 - To encourage Philemon to receive back Onesimus, one of his slaves, who had run away to Rome, where he was converted to Christ by Paul.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, 2 to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, 5 hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, ⁶ that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. 7 For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.

⁸ Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, 9 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—10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, 11 who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. 12 I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, 13 whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. 14 But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.

15 For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, 16 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. 17 If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. 18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. 19 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.

20 Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. 21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you. 23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, 24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. 25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Philemon's Character — (1-7)



- > Dear Philemon ... (1-3)
 - What he meant to Paul personally (vs. 1-2)
 - Manifested love & faith towards Christ & brethren (vs. 4,5)
 - Shared his faith (vs. 6)
 - An encourager (vs. 7)
 - > Philemon OWED Paul (vs. 19)

Paul Intercedes For Onesimus — (8-19)

Philemon 8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, 9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to youbeing such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ—

- ▶ Paul's humble approach (8,9)
 - Right as an apostle to ORDER Philemon to receive Onesimus -1 Thes. 2:6, 7; 1 Cor. 5:4
 - But instead, he appeals to the authority of love, 8, 9; Col.
 2:12-15; 1 Cor. 13:4-8
 - The gospel appeal Rom 5:8-10

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- ▶ Paul's humble approach (8,9)
 - Paul appeals to Philemon as a wise and seasoned veteran 1
 Pet. 5:5; 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; etc.
 - Paul appeals to Philemon as one who is suffering for the cause of Christ desiring that the gospel of reconciliation reach as many as possible 2 Cor. 5:12-21; etc.

Paul Intercedes For Onesimus — (8-19)

Philemon 10-11 (NKJV) 10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, 11 who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.

- > On Behalf of Onesimus ─ (10,11)
 - "My son" Onesimus had become a Christian through the teaching of Paul while he was in prison — Acts 28:30,31
 - The gospel can change ANYONE who by faith yields to Christ making them profitable to God & man! 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:3-7.

Paul Intercedes For Onesimus — (8-19)

Philemon 12–14 (NKJV)

¹² I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, ¹³ whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel.

- > On Behalf of Onesimus ─ (10,11)
 - "I am sending him back" as the law of the land & true repentance demanded Col. 3:22-25; Ep. 6:5-7; 1 Ti. 6:1, 2; Tit. 2:9, 10; 1 Pe. 2:18, 19; Rom. 13:1-7; Mat. 3:8; Acts 26:20
 - "You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart" Have mercy on him for me Col. 3:12-15; Luk. 15:11-32; Mat. 6:14,15; Ep. 4:32.

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- On Behalf of Onesimus (10,11)
 - "Whom I wished to keep with me" He was helpful to Paul, therefore
 Paul wished he could have stayed.
 - The RIGHT & necessary thing to do was to send Onesimus back Paul did NOT want to take advantage of Philemon or Onesimus.

Paul Intercedes For Onesimus — (8-19)

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 - "Whom I wished to keep with me" He was helpful to Paul, therefore
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 - The RIGHT & necessary thing to do was to send Onesimus back Paul did NOT want to take advantage of Philemon or Onesimus.
 - Paul wanted the choice to be Philemon's - Free will - Rom 16:16-18

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Philemon 15 (NKJV) 15 For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever,

- > On Behalf of Onesimus ─ (10,11)
 - "For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose," God works providentially we cannot know for certain what God does behind the scene cf. Esther 4:14.
 - God can turn man's disobedience, trials and hopeless circumstances into a blessing Rom. 8:28; Gen 50:19; Acts 2:23,24; James 1:2-18.

Paul Intercedes For Onesimus — (8-19)

Philemon 16 (NKJV) 16 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.

- → On Behalf of Onesimus (10,11)
 - **No longer a slave but more than a slave —a beloved brother" Paul doesn't call for emancipation (1 Cor. 7:20-22), but compliance! The gospel is not focused on social reform but gospel principles will inevitably reform any culture.
 - Christ can heal, strengthen & sustain ANY relationship 1 Pet 3:1-7; 1 Cor. 13:4-8; Col. 3:12-15; Eph. 4:1-6; etc.

Paul Intercedes For Onesimus — (8-19)

Philemon 17-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ If then you count me as a partner, receive him as *you* would me. ¹⁸ But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing with my own hand.

- > On Behalf of Onesimus ─ (10,11)
 - * "Receive him as you would me" as a faithful servant of Jesus as a friend as a brother Gal 3:28; Acts 10:34; James 2:1-13; Mat 12:48-50.
 - Onesimus COULD NOT repay Philemon - Paul obligates himself to take care of any debt owed ...

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- A beautiful parallel to our salvation, (including Philemon's 19)
 - All have sinned Rom 3:23
 - The wages of sin is death Romans 6:23; James 1:13-15
 - Cannot repay our debt Salvation is by grace through faith — Eph. 2:5-10
 - Jesus has taken our debt and has paid what we could not! Rom. 5:10,11; 11:6; Col. 1:20, 21; He. 2:17; 1 Jno. 2:2; 4:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-21

Paul's Closing Passionate Plea — (19-21)



Philemon 19-21 (NKJV)

19 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. 20 Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. 21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Lessons From PHILEMON



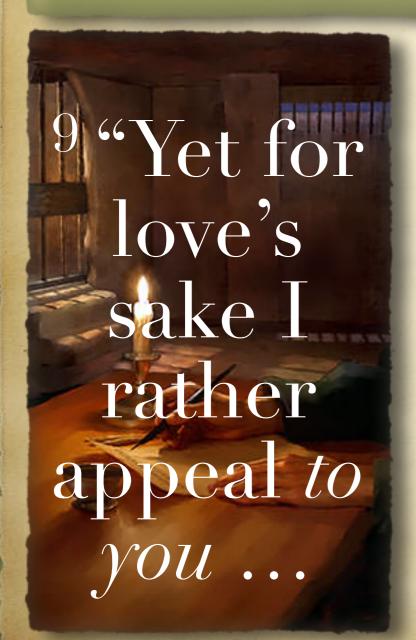
- Acknowledge and be thankful for the good in others and encourage them to continue — 4-7
- Expect the best from one another and encourage one another to do what is right — 8-12, 21
- The need to be forgiving just as Christ has forgiven us! 12,15,16,19.
- Christians are brethren we are all one in Christ Jesus — 16; Gal. 3:26-28

Lessons From PHILEMON



- Regardless of what we have done, if we turn to Christ, trust and obey Him, we can be useful to God and others
 — 10; Luke 15:11-32; Mat 5:13-16.
- True love, as taught by Christ, WILL heal, strengthen and improve ANY relationship IF ALL involved will WHOLLY SUBMIT to Christ! A troubled marriage; A strained friendship; Church problems; etc. 15,16; 1 Cor. 13:4-8; Eph. 5:22-32; etc.

Lessons From PHILEMON



- Receive Christ by faith, repenting of your sins & being baptized into Him Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27; Col. 2:12,13.
- If you are already in Christ, but sin has again entered into your life, repent, confess & pray 1 Jn 1:9,10; Ac 8:22
- If you are already in Christ, be filled with love and faith — serving one another — Heb. 10:24,25

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Philemon 1:1-25

COLOSSIANS 1:3-14 (NKJV)

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

COLOSSIANS 1:3-14 (NKJV)

⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

COLOSSIANS 1:3-14 (NKJV)

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.