

Philemon

Philemon is a member and leader of the church in Colossi. Onesimus is a slave that committed some type of crime and ran away for Philemon, encountered Paul, got saved is now being sent back by Paul.

A letter that is based in relationships, Paul refers to himself as a prisoner of Jesus Christ, a fellow prisoner of Epharatus who is one of them.

- friend to Philemon
- brother, to Philemon and Timothy
- partner to Philemon
- fellow soldier to Archipus
- father to Onesimus
- co-laborer to Philemon, Mark, Archipus, Demas, Luke

v.1 a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus

v.2 Apphia- probably Philemon's wife, Archippus, possibly their son
- church in their house

v.4 prays for them- the best thing I can hear from people is that they pray for me

v.5 love and faith- (*1 Cor 13:4-7 NKJV*) *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; {5} does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; {6} does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

v.6 sharing of faith- not giving the gospel to people but **koinonia** - your fellowship, distribution, sharing of yourself

- become effective- be energized
- by the acknowledgement- first that we would acknowledge it ourselves and secondly that it would be a testimony to others
- everything good that is in you- (*Col 1:9-14 NKJV*) *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; {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.

(Col 2:9-10 NKJV) For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; {10} and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

v.7 Paul knows Philemon's character and lifestyle

v.8 He could have taken apostolic authority and forced the issue

v.10 my son- relationship

v.11 was unprofitable (word play since Onesimus means profitable)- Paul doesn't plead his case trying to make excuses for his behavior, Paul acknowledges that Onesimus has wronged Philemon.

v.12 receive him

v.15 God uses circumstance- note verse 24 and Mark listed as fellow laborer, Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on first missionary journey in Acts 12; in Acts 15 Barnabas wants to take Mark again but Paul is so upset with him for deserting them that Paul and Barnabas split over it, referred to as sharp contention- yet now Paul has forgiven, restored, bonded with Mark. So Paul doesn't write this letter as a theological discourse in what Philemon should do but rather as a brother who has been there, has been wronged, and has forgiven.

v.17- partner- again koininai, - receive him- take him to yourself
- *as you would me*

v.18 if he has wronged you, charge it to my account

v.19 remember how I ministered to you

v.20 let me have joy, refresh my heart by doing what you should

v.24 relationships don't always have a happy restoration ending- (*2 Tim 4:10 NKJV*) *for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica; Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.*

How the situations come out is not our business, it's God's business. Our role is to be the picture of Jesus Christ. God allows to be in situations where we need to give grace, forgiveness, give second chances, restore. Sometimes you'll get burned, people will continue to hurt you, they'll desert you but we need to let it go.