

Philemon — Worksheet 1

A Plea for Onesimus

Read the passages on the back of this sheet (or use the biblestudy.fyi TTS Bible Player) before you begin.
Answer in your own words on the lines provided.

1. What approach does Paul choose in Philemon 1:8-9, even though he could command Philemon?

2. Who is Onesimus, and what is Paul's relationship to him, according to Philemon 1:10?

3. What does Paul ask Philemon to do in Philemon 1:12, 15-16?

4. What does Paul offer to do personally, according to Philemon 1:18-19?

5. Reflection: Paul appeals to relationship and love rather than pulling rank. When have you seen (or needed) that kind of gentle persuasion rather than a demand?

Scripture for Philemon — A Plea for Onesimus

King James Version. Flip back to the front to answer the questions.

Philemon 1:8-16

⁸Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient, ⁹Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: ¹¹Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: ¹²Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels: ¹³Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel: ¹⁴But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly. ¹⁵For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever; ¹⁶Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?