

Journey Church Hawaii
“How the Gospel Changes and Challenges Us”
Book of Philemon
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Background:

- Philemon met Paul on one of his missionary journeys and they became friends and partners(v 1, v. 17).
- Philemon helped Paul by teaming up with the missionary Epaphras and started a church that met in his home (v.1-2, Col 1:7).
- Philemon (definition- affection, love) was a man full of love in his walk with the Lord. He owned slaves and gave one of his slaves the name Onesimus (definition- useful).
- Onesimus stole from or in some way wronged Philemon and ran away.
- A slave caught deserting would normally be beaten, branded like cattle, forced to wear a chain, and/or forced into hard labor.
- While the Bible doesn't encourage or discourage slavery, it treats it as a normal part of the culture at that time. The Bible does at times, offer counter-cultural insights regarding slavery.

The Theme of Philemon:

The believer's invisible faith becomes visible in their love for one another.

Lessons From the Book of Philemon:

V6- Fellowship (Koinonia) in action is a result of the Lord's grace and peace.

V8- When you have a strong relationship with someone, you can appeal to them rather than command them. This is good leadership.

V9/10- No one is beyond saving. And you never know when your path will cross someone you may have thought was beyond God's grace.

V11- When a person is saved and transformed, they become useful to God and His kingdom.

V13- While it was within Paul's right to keep Onesimus as his servant, he chose to send him back to Philemon in order to restore their relationship.

V15- Forgiveness can restore a broken relationship. And true forgiveness can create a stronger bond than ever before.

V16- Deeper than the relationship between a master and servant (boss and worker) is the relationship between two brothers or sisters in Christ. That relationship should supersede all other relationships.

A Christian's Life should be marked by forgiveness. It's difficult, but freeing to forgive. And receiving forgiveness is sometimes the hardest part.

- Recognize that someone has done something wrong
- Know that they should be punished for their actions
- Withhold punishment and instead give mercy and grace