

# Welcome Onesimus as a Brother in the Lord

Philemon 1:1-25

Key Verse: 1:16-17

**“...no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.”**

1. How does the author identify himself? (1a,10b,13b,19a) Why does he refer to himself as “a prisoner of Christ Jesus,” “in chains for the gospel”? (Ac 28:30-31) To whom was Paul writing? (1b-2) How did he greet them? (3)
2. In his prayer for Philemon, for what two things was Paul always thankful? (4-5) What did he further pray for him? (6) How does the word “partnership” suggest that Paul wanted Philemon to share with him the mind of Christ? How had Philemon’s love affected the Lord's people, including Paul? (7)
3. What was Paul’s appeal to Philemon, and what was its basis? (8-10) How does he describe his relationship with Onesimus? How does this reveal the mind of Christ? (Mk 2:5) What can we learn here about the transforming power of the gospel (11)
4. What was Paul’s painful decision regarding Onesimus? (12-13) How did Paul show his respect for Philemon in making this decision? (14) How did Paul help Philemon to consider this matter from God's point of view? (15)
5. How did Paul express his affection in Christ and deep respect for Onesimus? (16, see 12) How could Paul have such an attitude toward Onesimus? (1 Ti 1:14-15; Gal 3:28) How did Paul want Philemon to respond to Onesimus? (17) What can we learn here about how to see those who are transformed by the gospel?
6. How did Paul want Philemon to deal with Onesimus' wrongs and debts? (18-19) What do you learn from Paul's willingness to sacrifice for Onesimus? What benefits did Paul want from Philemon? (20) What was Paul’s confidence in Philemon? (21) What “one more thing” did Paul ask? (22) What were his final greetings? (23-25)