

# **The Priority of the Christian Community**

## **Paul's Letter to Philemon**

*In this letter, we will examine the lives of three fellow believers within the context of the Christian community*

- I. Philemon: An Example to the Christian Community**
  - a. Philemon's Love (v. 5; 7)
  - b. Philemon's Faith (v. 5-6)
  - c. Philemon's Refreshment of the Saints (v. 7)
- II. Paul: A Passion for the Christian Community**
  - a. Paul's Appeal on Behalf of Onesimus (v. 8-13)
  - b. Paul's Confidence in Philemon (v. 14-17; 20-22)
  - c. Paul's Sacrificial offer of Repayment (v. 18-19)
- III. Onesimus: A Dignity within the Christian Community**
  - a. Onesimus the Bondservant (v. 16)
  - b. Onesimus the Beloved Son & Brother (v. 10; 16)
  - c. Onesimus the Useful Laborer (v. 11)