

## Philemon: Appealing Where we Could Demand

1. Fast facts:
  - a. 25 verses;
  - b. The third shortest book in the Bible (after 3 John and 2 John, right before Obadiah);
  - c. The shortest of Paul's letters;
  - d. The most "private" of the New Testament books.
2. Eleven people are mentioned by name (not including the Persons of the Trinity);
  - a. Paul
  - b. Timothy
  - c. Philemon
  - d. Apphia
  - e. Archippus
  - f. Onesimus
  - g. Epaphras
  - h. Mark
  - i. Aristarchus
  - j. Demas
  - k. Luke
3. Five virtues of Philemon:
  - a. A host and leader of the local church (v. 2);
  - b. Love for the Lord Jesus and the saints (v. 5);
  - c. Faith in the Lord Jesus and the saints (v. 5);
  - d. Goodness (v. 14);
  - e. A praying man (v. 22).
4. Paul's explicit goals for Philemon:
  - a. Faith becoming effective through full knowledge of every good thing in Christ (v.6);
  - b. Consent to Onesimus serving the church as a brother (v. 14);
  - c. To prepare a guest room (v. 22);
  - d. But are there more?
5. The core of Paul's plea:
  - a. A backbone of spiritual authority (v. 8);
  - b. Love brings about a different type of plea (v. 9);
  - c. The story of Onesimus in Paul's life (v. 10-13);
  - d. The "heart" of Paul (v. 12);
  - e. The "guilt trip" (v. 14);
  - f. The gospel's superiority to human conventions and wealth (v. 15-16).
6. Supports for Paul's command:
  - a. Paul has sufficient account (Matthew 18:21-35);
  - b. Paul needs a benefit from the student of his teaching (Galatians 6:6);
  - c. The "refreshed heart" – three hearts of Philemon (vv. 7, 12, 20);
  - d. Philemon's proclivity to overachieve (v. 21);
  - e. Paul's follow up; (v. 22).
7. Closing of the letter: the community watches each other.