

# THE PLEA FOR FORGIVENESS

## Philemon 8-19

**Does Jesus Christ make a difference in the infuriating aftermath of injustice?**

~ We divide Paul's plea for forgiveness into 2 parts ~

### **THE REASONS FOR THE PLEA**

*Philemon 8-16*

#### **1. FORGIVE ONESIMUS BECAUSE OF YOUR CHRISTIAN LOVE**

*8-9*

*Micah 7:18-19 – Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

Christian love is Christ love = THE LOVE THAT DIES SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

*1 John 3:16 – Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Forgiveness will require your death

Death of revenge, suspicion, slander, comeuppance, bitterness, vindication

*Matthew 16:24 – Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

#### **2. FORGIVE ONESIMUS BECAUSE OF HIS CHANGING LIFE**

*10-14*

**Proof of Repentance**

*Philemon 10*

**Proof of Change**

*Philemon 11*

**Proof of Faithfulness**

*Philemon 12-14*

*1 Peter 2:23 – Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

Jesus pointed out the sin, trusted Dad to deal with it, and then willingly died to forgive

## **Philemon: A Study in Forgiveness**

### **3. FORGIVE ONESIMUS BECAUSE OF OUR CARING LORD**

**15-16**

Paul had no access to God's secret counsel, but it sure seemed like God overruled the mess Onesimus made

*2 Corinthians 4:17-18 – For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

## **THE REQUESTS IN THE PLEA**

**Philemon 17-19**

### **1. RECEIVE YOUR BROTHER**

**17**

"Philemon, receive Onesimus as though he were me"  
We are all equal at the foot of the cross  
Do not forget who the real enemy is!

### **2. RECONCILE WITH YOUR BROTHER**

**18-19**

Paul was eager to help remove obstacles to restore relationship

An unforgiving spirit makes the believer unfit for worship

*Matthew 5:23-24 – Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

"Philemon, I appeal to you – Forgive Onesimus"