

**GOD USED WHO?**

**PHILEMON &  
ONESIMUS**

August 18, 2019

Paul gives some practical advice to both sides of a fractured relationship, to the offended and to the offender. Make no mistake, when we love Jesus reconciliation is always God's design.

**Background:**

## **Background:**

- **Paul wrote Philemon from prison in Rome**

## Background:

- Paul wrote Philemon from prison in Rome
- **Philemon was a wealthy slave owner living in Colossae**

## Background:

- Paul wrote Philemon from prison in Rome
- Philemon was a wealthy slave owner living in Colossae
- **Philemon came to faith through Paul**

## Background:

- Paul wrote Philemon from prison in Rome
- Philemon was a wealthy slave owner living in Colossae
- Philemon came to faith through Paul
- **Onesimus was a slave of Philemon**

## Background:

- Paul wrote Philemon from prison in Rome
- Philemon was a wealthy slave owner living in Colossae
- Philemon came to faith through Paul
- Onesimus was a slave of Philemon
- **Onesimus escaped from Philemon in Colossae and goes to Rome (maybe steals money)**

## Background:

- Paul wrote Philemon from prison in Rome
- Philemon was a wealthy slave owner living in Colossae
- Philemon came to faith through Paul
- Onesimus was a slave of Philemon
- Onesimus escaped from Philemon in Colossae and goes to Rome (maybe steals money)
- **Onesimus meets Paul in Rome and trusts Jesus**

**Philemon loved Jesus.**

## Philemon 1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup> and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, <sup>6</sup> and I pray that the sharing of

## Philemon 1-7

your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup> For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- **Was fellow worker**

# Philemon 1

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To **Philemon** our **beloved fellow worker**

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- **Was fellow worker**

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- Was fellow worker
- **Has church in his home**

## Philemon 1-2

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup> and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- Was fellow worker
- **Has church in his home**

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- Was fellow worker
- Has church in his home
- **Treasured Jesus**

## Philemon 1-5

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup> and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- Was fellow worker
- Has church in his home
- **Treasured Jesus**

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- Was fellow worker
- Has church in his home
- Treasured Jesus
- **Loved other followers of Jesus**

## Philemon 1-5

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup> and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers <sup>5</sup> because I hear of **your love** and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and **for all the saints,**

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- Was fellow worker
- Has church in his home
- Treasured Jesus
- **Loved other followers of Jesus**

# Philemon loved Jesus.

- Was fellow worker
- Has church in his home
- Treasured Jesus
- Loved other followers of Jesus
- **Paul and other believers were encouraged by his faith**

## Philemon 1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup> and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,

<sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, <sup>6</sup> and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup> For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Philemon loved Jesus.

**Philemon was hurt by Onesimus.**

# **Philemon was hurt by Onesimus.**

- **Philemon deserted by Onesimus**

# Philemon was hurt by Onesimus.

- Philemon deserted by Onesimus
- **Onesimus cost Philemon money**

# Philemon was hurt by Onesimus.

- Philemon deserted by Onesimus
- Onesimus cost Philemon money
- **Philemon was not exempt from relational challenges**

# Philemon was hurt by Onesimus.

- Philemon deserted by Onesimus
- Onesimus cost Philemon money
- Philemon was not exempt from relational challenges
- **Philemon needed practical encouragement**

Philemon loved Jesus.

Philemon was hurt by Onesimus.

**Philemon was encouraged to forgive  
Onesimus (by Paul).**

## Philemon 8-20

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order

## Philemon 8-20

that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup> For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you

## Philemon 8-20

consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

# **Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).**

- **See the big picture**

## Philemon 8-11

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.

<sup>11</sup> (**Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.**)

# **Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).**

- **See the big picture**

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- **Happily forgive (no obligation)**

## Philemon 8-14

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.

<sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- **Happily forgive (no obligation)**

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- **Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus**

## Philemon 8-16

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup> For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> **no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother**—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- **Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus**

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus
- **Receive him with deep respect and affection**

## Philemon 8-17

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup> For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> **no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.** <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, **receive him as you would receive me.**

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus
- **Receive him with deep respect and affection**

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus
- Receive him with deep respect and affection
- **Forgive whatever debt he might be owed**

## Philemon 8-19

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup> For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the

flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup> **If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.** <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: **I will repay it**—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus
- Receive him with deep respect and affection
- **Forgive whatever debt he might be owed**

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus
- Receive him with deep respect and affection
- Forgive whatever debt he might be owed
- **Express forgiveness from an appreciation for what he had been forgiven**

## Philemon 8-20

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—  
<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup> For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus
- Receive him with deep respect and affection
- Forgive whatever debt he might be owed
- **Express forgiveness from an appreciation for what he had been forgiven**

# Philemon was encouraged to forgive Onesimus (by Paul).

- See the big picture
- Happily forgive (no obligation)
- Have your relationship with him be founded in your shared relationship with Jesus
- Receive him with deep respect and affection
- Forgive whatever debt he might be owed
- Express forgiveness from an appreciation for what he had been forgiven
- **Love him radically empowered by the love of Jesus**

## Philemon 8-21

<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required,  
<sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.  
<sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup> I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup> For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, I want some

benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> **Confident of your obedience**, I write to you, knowing that **you will do even more than I say**.

**Reflection:**

# Reflection:

- **Who might God be calling you to forgive?**

# Reflection:

- Who might God be calling you to forgive?
- **What was the nature of the offense?**

# Reflection:

- Who might God be calling you to forgive?
- What was the nature of the offense?
- **God, please use the forgiveness I have experienced in your love to empower me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_.**