



Sermon: **Philemon**

Date: **April 14, 2024**

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the teaching and bible passage this week?
2. Onesimus was one of Philemon's *slaves*. Pastor Randy spoke to difference between slavery in the Roman era and the slavery experienced in America. Compare and contrast the two.
3. How does Paul address Philemon, a slave owner, in verses 4-7? What can we learn from Paul's example here, especially when we think through what to do with historical figures that also owned slaves?
4. What could Paul *command* Philemon to do if he wanted to in verse 8? What are some Scriptures he could have used to bring the command to bear upon the situation?
5. Read verse 9. Why does Paul decide to make a heartfelt *appeal* to Philemon instead of simply commanding him to forgive Onesimus? What can we learn from this?
6. What do we learn about Onesimus in verses 10-11? What implications does this change in Onesimus' life have on Philemon's relationship with Onesimus?
7. How does a trust in God's providence serve to help us as we seek to reconcile and forgive one another? Explain. Use Scripture.



8. How was Onesimus expected to make things right in the relationship? What does this teach us about the consequences of sin and what it might take to *fully* reconcile with someone that we've wronged?

9. What are the consequences of unforgiveness? What can happen if we harbour unforgiveness in our hearts?

10. What do you do if the person that sinned against you hasn't yet asked for your forgiveness? How can you guard your heart in this situation from bitterness?

11. If you knew someone in the Lord that was having a hard time forgiving someone else, how would you counsel and encourage them? What Scriptures might you point them toward? How would you bring the gospel to bear upon the situation?