



## “Love’s Personal Appeal”

Philemon 1:8-17

July 31, 2022

Questions for Application and Fellowship

### SERMON REVIEW

Onesimus (which means ‘useful’) was a slave of a believer named Philemon in Colosse. Apparently, Onesimus had stolen from Philemon and fled the city. At some point while Paul was under house arrest in Rome, Onesimus met him and became a Christian. Paul wrote this letter and gave it to Onesimus to carry back to Philemon. Paul appeals to Philemon to welcome Onesimus for love’s sake. This letter puts a spotlight on the power of Christ to transform relationships with His love.

**In Philemon 1:8-17, Paul appeals for the reconciliation and transformation of a broken relationship.**

#### **What is the basis of the appeal?**

1. The appeal is on the basis of genuine \_\_\_\_\_ (1:10-11)
2. The appeal is on the basis of personal \_\_\_\_\_ (1:12-14)
3. The appeal is on the basis of divine \_\_\_\_\_ (1:15-16)

Was any point in this weekend’s message or portion of Scripture particularly challenging, encouraging or helpful for you?

Why did God want you to hear this message now?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Onesimus ran for his freedom only to find that he was still enslaved. By virtue of that fact that he was born again, what did he come to realize about another form of slavery? Romans 7:14-25
2. What did Jesus teach about slavery and freedom in John 8:31-36?
3. Paul's feelings about Onesimus are intensely personal. He sees him as his child and as his very heart. When have you experienced such a close personal bond with other believers not in your immediate family? Do we see this kind of affection in Bethel Grace?
4. In verse 11, Paul speaks of a change in Onesimus' work ethic. What was it? Should this characterize all followers of Jesus? I Thessalonians 4:9-12
5. According to verse 15, Paul saw divine purpose in the flight of Onesimus. God's hand was at work. What did Paul see as the end God was working toward? How is this in keeping with Romans 8:28-30?
6. How is God ordering circumstances in your life? Are you facing any relational conflict? What gaps is God at work to build bridges across in your life?

