



**Philemon – A
letter of love**

Philemon's Character of Love and Faith

- **Faith in Christ is the basis of fellowship – v. 4**

- **Love is expressed in “refreshing” – v. 7**
 - **Is result of shared faith – v. 6**
 - **Is physical - II Cor. 7:13; III Jn. 5-7**
- **Paul's thanks, v.4**

Lessons to note:

- 1) **Philemon was helping Christ – Mt. 25:41-46**
- 2) **Philemon put theory into practice – I Jn. 3:18**
- 3) **Others speaking of Philemon's love, v.5**
- 4) **Philemon's love had indirect results, v.5**

Paul's Appeal of Love – receive Onesimus back

For whom is the appeal of love made? Paul or Onesimus?

- 1) Paul as aged and imprisoned, v.9
- 2) Will give Paul joy, refreshing heart, v.20
- 3) Receive him as you would me, v.17, 22
- 4) He is “my own heart”, a “son” “begotten”

- **The situation**
 - **Runaway slave, V.11, 16**
 - **Stealing? V.18, 19**
- **Paul could have ordered – v. 12, 14**
 - **I Cor. 10:13, 13:2**

Nowhere is appeal made of love for Onesimus

Paul's Practical Appeals to Philemon

- 1) Now a Christian, v.16
- 2) Profitable – v.11, 13
- 3) Recompense given, v.18
- 4) Onesimus to return and serve of own free will

- **What if Philemon refuses due to grudge? II Cor. 2:4-9**
- **There is same standard of love due, even if sinned and repented**

The practicality of receiving Onesimus back is clear

Concluding the letter:

- **We don't know if he was received back – v. 21**
- **Perhaps it was God's providence – v.15**
 - **Are we putting theory into practice?**
 - **Philemon showed love to the saints**
 - **Philemon could receive him based on:**
 - **His love for Paul**
 - **Doing something for the sake of someone else**
 - **The practicality of receiving – no grudges**
 - **Paul thanked God for Philemon's love**