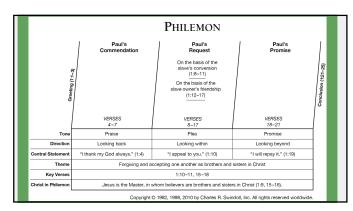


1



2

By what authority could Paul give Philemon a command he must follow?

What does Paul mean that Onesimus was begotten by him?

How was Onesimus unprofitable to Philemon?

Philemon 1:8-11 ⁸ Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, ⁹ yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom, I have begotten *while* in my chains, ¹¹ who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. What was the legal process for runaway slaves who were returned to their master?

Why does Paul want Onesimus to returned to him?

What does the phrase "for this purpose" indicate?

Philemon 1:12-16 ¹² I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, ¹³ whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. ¹⁵ For perhaps he departed for a while for this *purpose*, that you might receive him forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

4

What is the impact of the statement "writing with my own hand?

What is the possible debt that Philemon owes Paul?

What joy can Philemon send back to Paul?

What dilemma does Philemon face with this request?

Philemon 1:17-22 ¹⁷ If then you count me as a partner, receive him as *you would* me. ¹⁸ But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay—not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides. ²⁰ Yes, bother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. ²¹ Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.

5

Why mention these men in this personal letter as in the letter to the Church?

What was Philemon's response to this letter?

What should motivate our forgiveness?

Philemon 1:22-25 ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, ²⁴ as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. ²⁵ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

