

I. Introduction: Author, Recipients, Setting, and Thanksgiving (1-7, 23-24; Col 4:7-14)

II. How the Gospel Transformed Onesimus (8-14)

III. The Divine Purpose: From Slave to Beloved Brother (15-16)

IV. The Request: Reconcile and Welcome (17-22; Rom 15:27)

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. How do you see the gospel at work in the heart of Onesimus? In the heart of Philemon?
2. How does Paul use the principles of the gospel in his appeal to Philemon?
3. What is the biblical principle of restitution?
4. How does the mercy we have received from Christ lead us to be merciful and forgive others?