

**Sermon Outline for:  
Sweet Speech, a Sermon on Philemon 1:1-25**

- I. The background story of Philemon
- II. How Paul seasons his words with grace
  - a. Paul has built up relational capital
  - b. Paul lets Philemon know he loves him (and wants what's best for him)
  - c. Paul lets Philemon know he loves Onesimus (and wants what's best for him)
  - d. Paul shows Philemon he believes the best about him
  - e. Paul gives Philemon the opportunity to do the right thing on his own
  - f. Paul tells Philemon Onesimus is a Christian now (it's all in the family)
  - g. Paul provides Philemon with subtle accountability
  - h. Paul calls Philemon's attention to God's good providence
- III. How God seasons His words with grace
- IV. The Gospel at the center of this letter

**Discussion Questions**

1. Review: name four ways the Gospel shows up in this letter.
2. Imagine you're Philemon. What are some reasons you might imagine yourself giving Paul to argue against his request to forgive Onesimus? Why do none of these arguments hold water?
3. In what areas of your life do you often fail to be gracious in your speech? (Maybe pray for each other, if there's time).
4. Can you think of an Onesimus story in your life, where an unlikely person you knew was totally transformed by God's grace?