

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

FRIENDS FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

²² And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers. ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. ²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

The Basis of Paul's appeal (vs. 8-9)

- Not authority
- Love

The Person of Paul's appeal (vs. 10-12)

- Onesimus: Useful, my son

The Reason of Paul's appeal

- It is right (v. 8)
- It is the loving thing to do (v. 9)
- He is my spiritual son (v. 10)
- He is now useful (v. 11)
- He is helpful to me (v. 13)
- He is dear to me (v. 16)
- He is a brother in the Lord (v. 16)

The Specifics of Paul's appeal

- Welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me (v. 17)
- Let me pay for the damages Onesimus has incurred to you (vs. 18-19)
- Refresh my heart by accepting him (v. 20)

The anticipated result of Paul's appeal (vs. 21-22)

- Confident in your obedience
- You will do more than I ask
- Prepare a guest room for me

Paul's fellow workers

Timothy— a dependable leader

Onesimus— a useful slave

Epaphras— a prayer warrior

Mark— a helpful minister

Aristarchus — a fellow worker

Demas — a fellow worker

Luke — a faithful companion

Our Faithful Service

Next Steps