

Christ-like Love Philemon – 15-25

I. Consider God's Timing – 15-16

1. Perhaps timing was of God to bring change
His departure was what you consider a loss
A loss of a worker you counted on
A loss of money if he did steal from you
2. Departed for a season to be joined forever
Not just as a slave but a beloved brother
3. This is how Paul sees it – Rom. 8:28
But it is even more so for Philemon
Your slave but also your brother in Christ
In the flesh – an earthly relationship
In the Lord – an eternal relationship
4. Timing also necessary for Onesimus' growth – 16
He was not just a new believer – "A beloved brother"
The change was clearly seen by Paul – 13
He had faithfully served Paul in his imprisonment
Paul would like to keep him because of his service
He could now recommend him to his friend Philemon
He was now more than a bondservant
He was now a beloved brother and Paul was confident
Sure Philemon would come to see the transformation
Paul was ready to speak for Onesimus

II. Expression of Grace – 17-21

1. Christ-like grace is offered – 17-19
Paul - Example of doctrine of imputation
This truth is at the very heart of the gospel
Receive him as you would receive me – 17
"If you consider me your partner"
Receive him based upon our relationship
God receives us in Christ – Eph. 1:6
God accepts us as His sons – John 1:12-13
God sees us in the righteousness of Christ – 2 Cor. 5:21
God sees us as seated with Christ in Heaven - Eph. 2:6
Paul will pay for wrongs done to him – 18-19
Charge his debts to Paul's account
Paul will pay for his wrongs and his debts
Christ is our advocate with the Father when we
sin – 1 John 2:1-2
He reminds Philemon what he owes Paul - 19
Christ paid all of our debt by His death – 1 Peter 2:24
We ought to forgive our brother or sister
Christ wants us to reflect His grace to those who
have been wronged
2. Paul's confidence in Philemon – 20-21
Philemon's response will bring Paul joy
Be a source refreshing me in Christ's love
His confidence goes beyond his request
He believes Philemon will do more than asked

III. Closing Words – 22-25

1. Paul's desire to visit – 22
Prepare a place for me to visit you
Pray that God would work it out
2. Greet Epaphras my fellow-prisoner – 23
Sent by Colossian church to Paul – Col. 1:7
3. His co-workers send greetings – 24
Mark, Aristarchus, Demas & Luke
4. Blessing of Christ's grace – 25
His grace is needed to respond to Onesimus
We need Christ's grace to love and forgive
Eph. 4:32