



Philemon Study Guide #3: Slavery/Family Dynamics

Explain the Context:

From your reading of the letter provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of these verses?	What is the BIG Idea?
What is something that surprised you?	What are these verses <i>not</i> saying?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) How does Paul address the issue of slavery to Philemon?

- 2) As Paul nears the end of his life, how different does his approach seem to be from what we know of his earlier life?

- 3) Paul calls Philemon a “brother” and Onesimus a “son”. What does this tell you about Paul’s relationship with both men?
- 4) How does Paul encourage Philemon to view Onesimus in the future? As a slave or as a brother?
- 5) In what ways do Paul’s words to Philemon encourage you to approach difficult issues with family? Do you speak out of earned authority or appeal out of love for others? Spend some time pondering this and ask the Lord to show you what He would have you know about it.

Apply the Scripture

In light of this week's theme of 'Slavery/Family Dynamics', write the verse that stood out to you most.

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?
