

## Gospel Transformation > Philemon v8-25

**V8-14** *The request.* Paul explains how Onesimus – a slave owned by Philemon – has been especially helpful to him and how Paul wishes for Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother.

**V15-16** *A reception.* Onesimus and Philemon are the same in the eyes of the Lord, and that should change their relationship in fundamental ways.

**V17-20** *Repayment.* Paul cares so much for these two brothers that he is willing to use his own personal money to right any wrongs that stand between them.

**V21-25** *Relationships.* This is what the entire letter has been about: Christian relationships. What Paul is calling Philemon and Onesimus to is the same thing he examples at the end of the letter: Jesus Christ changes how we relate to each other.

**Context:** Paul began the letter by commending how the Lord has already been at work in and through Philemon. Now, he continues with the hope that this same kind of transformative Gospel work will be shown in yet another area.

**Argument:** Onesimus is most useful to God's work if he and Philemon set aside their culture's ideas and instead embrace the relationship that Christ calls them to have.

**Gospel:** The Gospel creates a new spiritual family, one that Onesimus and Philemon both belong to, each redeemed by Jesus Christ.

**Applications:** How is the Gospel changing your relationships? How are your interactions with others seasoned by the grace and aroma of Christ?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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