

SUPER HEROES...SUPER MEN – PART THREE

Philemon

A. The REQUEST of Paul (v8-9)

1. His AUTHORITY (v8)

- a. “**Therefore**” links the coming request with the character of Philemon previously mentioned
- b. Paul could have **insisted** on Philemon forgiving Onesimus because it is the Biblical way
- c. Paul does not appeal to his **authority** as the main motive for asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus

2. His ADMIRATION (v9)

- a. Paul rather appeals to the **love** for all of the Saints that Philemon has as a character of his life
- b. Paul also uses his own **example** of obeying God even in difficult situations as encouragement
 - 1) “Aged” = This refers to his **accelerated** aging due to his suffering more than his numerical age
 - 2) “Prisoner” = Paul is **suffering** in prison

3. His APPEAL (v17)

- a. Paul appeals to **accept** Onesimus back
- b. Though the very word “**forgive**” is not used in this letter, it is implied through this appeal

B. The REASONS of Paul (v10-16)

1. The PROFILE of Onesimus (v10-14)

a. His REGENERATION (v10)

- 1) Onesimus was led to **Christ** by Paul
- 2) Onesimus now had the same **position** with Paul as did Philemon...spiritual sons

b. His RESOURCES (v11)

- 1) Onesimus now was of **profit**
- 2) Paul uses a play on words...**Useful** was formerly useless but now is useful

c. His REPENTANCE (v12a)

- 1) The fact that Onesimus **stands** before Philemon shows his sincere change of heart
- 2) He knew that by **law**, Philemon could have him severely punished or even killed

d. His RELATIONSHIP (v12b-14)

- 1) Onesimus’ relationship with **Paul** is reason to forgive him
- 2) Onesimus had **ministered** to Paul in the same way that Philemon would have (v13)
- 3) Paul shares how he could **use** Onesimus (v14)

2. The PURPOSE of Onesimus (v15-16)

- a. Paul shows God’s **providence** in using Onesimus’ hurting Philemon to bring him to faith
- b. Now he has a **physical** benefit to Philemon as a servant and a spiritual benefit to him as a brother