

## Bible Study Questions

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Forgiving When We Don't Feel Like It

Philemon

1. What can you glean from this letter about the circumstances Paul was in when he wrote it?
2. Based on verses 4-7 how would you describe Philemon to a Christian friend?
3. Why do you think Paul loved Onesimus so deeply (vv. 8-12)?
4. Onesimus had believed in Jesus. What change did his faith produce in the relationship between Onesimus and his owner, Philemon (vv. 15-16)?
5. Why doesn't Paul simply command Philemon to forgive Onesimus (vv. 8, 14, 17)?
6. Who would Paul plead with you to forgive if he wrote a letter to you today?
7. In what ways would Philemon be justified to refuse Paul's request that he accept Onesimus back into his household?

What risks did Onesimus take by going back to Philemon?

8. Paul asks Philemon to charge whatever Onesimus owes him to Paul's account (vv. 18-19). How does Paul's request parallel our forgiveness from Jesus?

9. What insight does Paul's request give you about the price you may have to pay to forgive someone who has wronged you?

10. In what ways does Philemon's restoration of Onesimus and his acceptance of him as a brother parallel our acceptance by God?

11. What does the story of Philemon and Onesimus teach us about our acceptance of a person who has hurt us and who has received our forgiveness?

What does it take to reestablish a sense of trust in someone who has failed?