

# PHILEMON - CHOOSING A LEGACY OF LOVE

## Lesson 3

**Review:** *We had previously examined the various reasons why Onesimus may have both stolen and fled from his master Philemon. Though he had a great reputation in the church for generous acts and demonstrations of love, Paul wanted to ensure that that love would extend to generous acts of mercy and grace towards Onesimus, who is now his brother in Christ.*

### I. IF IT IS GENUINE LOVE, IT WILL LEAD US INTO TO MERCY - Philemon 8-12

A) Forgiveness must be CONSISTENT - Matt. 18:20-31

- 1) Not based on WHO
- 2) Not based on WHAT
- 3) Not based on HOW much

B) Forgiveness must be COMPASSIONATE - Matt. 18:32-33

- 1) Not the result of an automatic RESPONSE
- 2) But the result of honest REFLECTION
  - a) What I have been forgiven for
  - b) How often I've been forgiven
  - c) Why I was forgiven

C) Forgiveness must be COMPREHENSIVE - Matt. 18:34-35

### II. IF IT IS GENUINE LOVE, IT WILL LEND ITSELF TOWARDS GRACE - Vs. 12-25

*"To impute means to completely transfer total blame or credit to another."*

A) Extending the grace of imputed STANDING - II Cor. 5:21

- 1) How we stand before GOD - Col. 1:20-22
- 2) How Paul applies this GRACE - vs. 12

B) Extending the grace of imputed SERVICE - vs. 13-17

- 1) How God accounts of our TOIL
  - a) When we serve those that serve Him -
  - b) When we serve Him by serving others - Col. 3:22-25
  - c) When we give to those that serve Him - Phil. 4:14-19
- 2) How Paul applies this TRUTH
  - a) Philemon served Paul through Onesimus
  - b) He should allow Onesimus serve the Lord through him
  - c) Paul can serve the Lord with Philemon through Onesimus

C) Extending the grace of imputed SACRIFICE - vs. 18-22

- 1) Grace allows God to right all WRONGS - Rom. 12:17-21
- 2) Grace allows us to do right inspite of WRONGS