

Difficult Embrace

(Philemon 12-16)

1. Paul returned Onesimus to Philemon in order that Philemon may reap some spiritual profit by God's _____ and for God's _____ by voluntarily _____ Onesimus back though he had acted _____ towards him.
 - Paul had sent Onesimus back with the letter to Philemon asking him to welcome this runaway slave back into his _____ and into the _____. (Phm. 12)
 - What was Paul's connection to this slave? (Phm. 10) Onesimus had _____ the gospel through Paul.
 - What was Paul's feelings concerning him? (Phm. 12) Paul was sending back his own _____.
 - ❖ Why did he feel this way? Because Paul was Onesimus' spiritual _____ and Onesimus was _____ to Paul
 - ❖ Do you have a spiritual connection to others in the church? (Rom. 12:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:12; Gal. 6:10; Eph 2:19-22; 1 Tim. 3:15)
 - Why would Paul choose to solve this personal matter this way? Not only was this a _____ matter between a slave and an owner but this was now a family matter concerning the _____. (1 Cor. 12:26)
 - ❖ How do you view your presence in this church? Are you part of this body caring for one another or just passing through?
 - What was at stake in this matter? Philemon's _____, the church's _____, Onesimus' _____, their testimony before their _____ and their testimony to the _____.
 - ❖ What does this indicate about the decisions we make at CMBC? They affect us and our _____ among our peers.
 - ❖ What do we seek to do accomplish at CMBC? To equip the saints to do the work of the ministry in this area and _____ of the Body through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Paul desired to _____ Onesimus for himself which would be _____ for Philemon. (Phm. 13)

➤ How is this possible? Because Onesimus was _____ by Philemon so as Onesimus ministered, it was as if Philemon _____ was ministering to Paul.

❖ What does this remind us of? We can use what God has blessed us with to _____ to others. (2 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Pet. 4:10)

• Paul desired that Philemon's good deed was spiritually profitable by _____ rather than _____ obedience. (Phm. 14)

➤ How does this relate to our Christian life? The Christian life is lived through a by faith moment by moment _____ to walk in dependence on Him. It is not by compulsion. (Eph. 5:1, 8, 18)

• Paul indicated to Philemon that all that had taken place with Onesimus may have been part of some _____. (Phm. 15; Gen 50:20)

➤ Sometimes people need to take a step or two _____ in order to move forwards. (Job 42:1-8; Dan 4:28-36; 2 Cor. 7:9-10)

❖ Have you lost _____ for those you love but are lost or not living for the Lord? (Eph. 3:20-21; Heb. 4:11-16; Acts 9:1-2)

• Previously, Onesimus was only a slave but now he was more than that, he was also a fellow _____ in Christ. (Phm. 16)

➤ How would that affect his slave status?

➤ How might that affect his activities back at his home? He will probably _____ and _____ to the saints in Colossae and even to Philemon as he did Paul.

❖ What is the need for new believers in Christ? (1 Peter 2:2) To _____ and _____ in the Lord.

2. Though you may experience difficulty in a relationship in your life, there is _____ for restoration through God's _____ and power if there is _____ to allow Him to work things out for His glory.

• Are you willing to allow God to work things out for His glory in your relationship difficulty?