

WEEK #7 (November 20th) • In Christ
Our Relationships Are Transformed
Colossians 4:7-18; Philemon

1. Take the time to read the little letter of Paul to Philemon. In your own words, what is going on in the life of Paul, Philemon and Onesimus at this point in history?
2. “I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ” (Philemon 6). What does this mean?
3. Practically speaking, how can someone “derive much joy and comfort” from the love of a brother or sister? How can we serve as a “refreshment” to one another (Philemon 7)?
4. What is Paul not-so-subtly hinting at in Philemon 8?
5. Why did Paul prefer, “for love’s sake,” to “appeal” to Philemon (9)?
6. In what way had Paul become a “father” to Onesimus in his imprisonment (Philemon 10)?
7. “I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord” (Philemon 14). Paul is encouraging Philemon to act from a very mature sense of motivation. What is that mature mindset and how can we grow to exercise it as our own?
8. What should we make of Paul’s conjecture in Philemon 15?
9. In Christ, our relationships are transformed. How is that truth most effectively demonstrated in Philemon 16, and how can we apply the same principles to our own relationships today?
10. What can we learn about motivating others to do the right thing from Paul’s language in Philemon 21?