

# Philemon

*Faith that Changes things*



*things*

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# **Philemon**

## **Part 1 – 1:1-7, A Faith that Changes Things**

Main characters

- Paul – the author
- Philemon – the recipient of this letter
- Onesimus – the fugitive slave

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## Part 1 – 1:1-7, A Faith that Changes Things

A brief response to the critic

- Slavery is condemned in the Bible

Exodus 21:16 Kidnappers must be put to death, whether they are caught in possession of their victims or have already sold them as slaves.

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- Slavery was a socially embedded institution and exceedingly common in the Greco-Roman world
- Early Christians lived under the powerful authoritarian state of Rome and were virtually powerless to change government policies

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## **Part 1 – 1:1-7, A Faith that Changes Things**

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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“Although my memory's fading, I  
remember two things very  
clearly: I am a great sinner and  
Christ is a great Savior.”

John Newton

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## **Part 1 – 1:1-7, A Faith that Changes Things**

Truly He taught us to love one another  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His holy name.

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Two main themes in Philemon

- Equality
- Forgiveness



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<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— <sup>2</sup> also to  
Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the  
church that meets in your home:

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

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<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.

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## Part 1 – 1:1-7, A Faith that Changes Things

<sup>7</sup> Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.