

PHILEMON: A TREASURED FRIEND **From the Book of Philemon**

**We see here a good and godly man with whom
Paul had a wonderful relationship.**

I. A LOVABLE FRIEND

- "To Philemon our beloved brother" (1)

A. A matter of COMFORT (7)

- Philemon's love brings Paul great joy and comfort

B. A matter of COURTESY (8, 14)

1. Philemon's love demanded Paul's respect
2. Paul did not command Philemon to do a good deed (8)
3. Paul did not compel Philemon to do what Paul wanted (14)

C. A matter between COEQUALS (17)

1. Philemon's love was that of a partner
2. The relationship is such that Paul has no problem asking a favor of his friend

D. A matter of CONVERSION (19)

1. Philemon's love may have begun with Paul's ministry
2. Paul's reference probably indicates that Paul had led Philemon to the Lord

E. A matter of CHARACTER (5-6, 21)

1. Philemon's love was that of a man with character (20-21)
2. He is a man of maturing faith (5-6)
3. He is a man of eager obedience (21)
 - Not just obeying but going above and beyond the request.

II. A LABORING FRIEND

- "To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow worker" (1)

A. His MISSION

1. This is one who is willing to work as a volunteer
2. He is willing to work in the shadows and without the limelight

Over please >

B. His MINISTRY

1. Provision (2)
 - He had the church in his house (2)
2. Refreshment (5-7)
 - He cared for the needs of the saints
3. Hospitality (22a)
 - He was willing to put Paul up in a guest room (22a)
4. Prayer (22b)
 - He was faithful in praying for Paul

III. A LEVEL-HEADED FRIEND (10-16)

A. THE APPEAL

1. Here is a friend you can appeal to without fear of being scorned or shunned
2. This is an approachable person

B. THE ADVISE

1. Reconsider Onesimus (10-11)
 - a. He is converted (10)
 - b. He has changed (11)
 - c. Give him a chance
2. Receive Onesimus (12-14)
 - Do not dismiss, demote or despise him
3. Relate to Onesimus (15-16)
 - Consider the new relationship that has been established

CONCLUSION:

Paul was blessed to have a good and godly man as his friend

Note Philemon 20

Philemon was a brother who:

1. Provided benefits
 - Bringing cheer and favors to his friends
2. Gave refreshment
 - Imparting encouragement

Might each of us seek to be a friend like that!