

***Sermon Title:* "PLEA FOR ONESIMUS"**

**Date: February 18, 2024 - Philemon 8-16**

Central Idea: A believer has a new standing before God and before God's people. Have you experienced a changed life?

Introduction: Not only did Paul lead Onesimus to Christ, but he also disciplined him. As a result, Onesimus ministered back to Paul. Nevertheless, when the apostle learned about the circumstances that had brought Onesimus to Rome, Paul sent him back to Philemon to make things right. Onesimus is now both a son to Paul (v. 10) and a brother to Philemon (v. 16).

Paul made an appeal in Christian love.

I. Philemon's Character, vv. 8-9

1. A blessing to others, v. 8
2. Christian love, v. 9

II. Onesimus's Conversion, vv. 10-14

1. A son in the faith, v. 10
2. He who was useless had become useful, vv. 11-14.

III. God's Providence, vv. 15-16

1. We must believe that God is in control, v. 15.
2. A slave and a brother, v. 16

Conclusion: Upon his return, Onesimus would be even dearer to Philemon than he was to Paul because their dual relationship as slave and master (in the flesh) and as Christian brothers (in the Lord) would be experienced within the intimacy of a single household. Philemon recognized Onesimus's changed life and new standing before God.