

Paul, the People Person

(Philemon)

Paul was a people person! Read Acts 20:36-38. The one page letter to Philemon illustrates his ability to relate one on one.

Philemon is Paul's most personal letter to an individual.

In Philemon, Paul defuses a potentially explosive situation between two friends. Philemon, a wealthy slave owner (verses 2, 22), and a close friend of Paul's at Colosse, had slave to run away with money (verse 18), Onesimus to Rome where Paul was imprisoned.

Onesimus is in deep trouble. Runaway slaves could be tortured or killed (Acts 19:10).

Paul writes this letter to Philemon to encourage all of us to build relationships in order to influence others.

- 1. We Must Treat People Respectfully to Build Relationships (1:1a)***
- 2. We Must be a Team Player to Build Relationships (1:1b-2, 23, 24)***
- 3. We Must be Positive Concerning People to Build Relationships (1:1-2, 23, 24)***
- 4. We Must Treat Others the Way God has Treated Us to Build Relationships (1:3)***
- 5. We Must Forgive People because We are Christians (1:4-7)***
 - A. Faith shares (1:6)
 - B. Love refreshes (1:7)
- 6. We Must Forgive People because a Forgiven Brother is Valuable (1:8-16)***
 - A. A Forgiven brother is a like a son (1:8-10)
 - B. A Forgiven brother is profitable (1:11-16)
- 7. We Must Forgive People because All of us have Sinned (1:17-25)***
 - A. Onesimus had sinned (1:18)
 - B. Philemon had sinned (1:19-21)