

Philemon — Worksheet 1: Answer Key

A Plea for Onesimus — marking guide

Use this to mark your own worksheet. For reflection questions, there is no single right answer — check that your response genuinely engages with the passage.

1. What approach does Paul choose in Philemon 1:8-9, even though he could command Philemon?

He appeals to him on the basis of love, rather than issuing a command, even though as an apostle he had that authority.

2. Who is Onesimus, and what is Paul's relationship to him, according to Philemon 1:10?

Onesimus is described as Paul's son, whom he 'begat' in his chains — someone Paul led to faith while imprisoned.

3. What does Paul ask Philemon to do in Philemon 1:12, 15-16?

To receive Onesimus back, no longer merely as a servant/slave, but as a beloved brother.

4. What does Paul offer to do personally, according to Philemon 1:18-19?

To repay anything Onesimus owes Philemon himself.

5. Reflection: Paul appeals to relationship and love rather than pulling rank. When have you seen (or needed) that kind of gentle persuasion rather than a demand?

Open, personal reflection.