



6. In Paul's letter to Philemon, he never appeals to principles of law or doctrine; he never gives a word of correction; he never even mentions the word "forgiveness." Yet Philemon's forgiveness and acceptance of Onesimus is clearly the theme of the letter.
- a) What then was the basis of Paul's appeal to accept Onesimus as a brother? What in Philemon's life would cause him to forgive Onesimus?
- b) What is your basis for forgiving those who have wronged and sinned against you? (see Matthew 6:14; Mark 11:25; Ephesians 4:32; James 2:13; 1 John 3:10) What is the potential damage to you and others for refusing to forgive someone?
- c) Read Matthew 18:21-35. Summarize the teaching of this parable. How does a lack of forgiveness display a misunderstanding of the cross?
7. It is clear in verse 10 that Paul was the instrument of the gospel in the life of Onesimus. Paul was sending Philemon a man who was different than the one who left. How was Onesimus a changed man? What differences might Philemon see in Onesimus? What should people see in our lives when we experience the forgiveness of God? (see Matthew 3:8; Colossians 3:22-24; 1 Peter 2:10)

#### PRAY IN THE GROUP

- What has God impressed on you through this study? Pray that God would enable you to grow in any areas of spiritual conviction.
- Cornerstone is evaluating candidates for a worship leader position in January. Pray for wise evaluation and selection of the candidates and for God's sovereign working in all the details needed to fill the position.