

# Argument #1: The Paul Connections

## (*Philemon Unlocked* #3)

Philemon 4-8

The appeal of love is more powerful than the command of power.

### A. Connection: Paul to Philemon

1. Affirming a significant relationship
  - a. As one claiming bold authority in Christ
  - b. As a *presbutes* (old man /elder/ambassador)
  - c. As one who “walks the walk” (prisoner for Christ)
  - d. As one who is first of all a loving friend in Christ
2. Therefore: He will appeal rather than command

### B. Connection: Paul with Onesimus

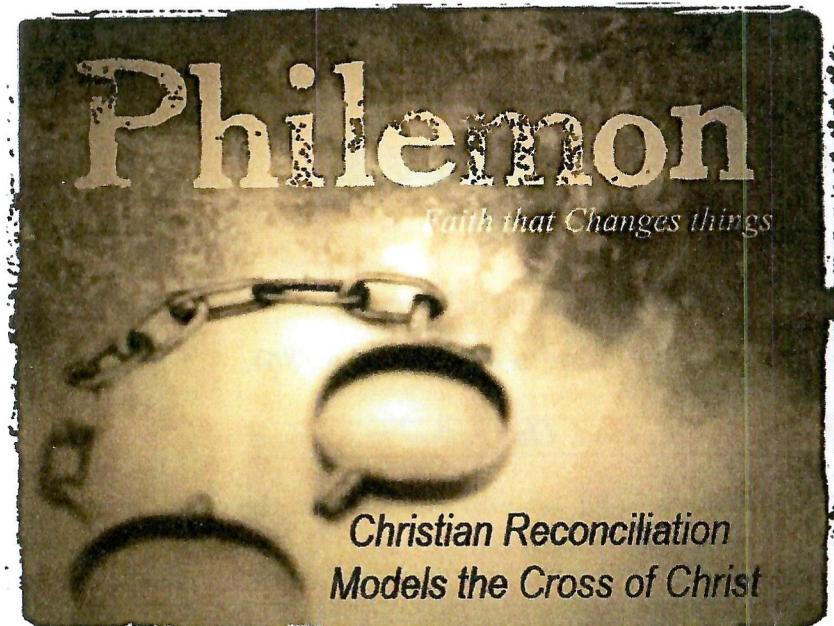
1. As a father with a son
2. As a witness to his immense transformation
  - a. into new life as a born-again follower of Jesus
  - b. “useless” to “useful”
3. In a relationship marked by deep affection
4. Therefore: Sending him back is a personal & costly act of faith & not merely dutiful compliance with Roman law.

### C. Connection? Philemon to Onesimus?

1. Willingly changing his view of his errant slave out of respect, but more *love*, for Paul?...
2. Embracing him as a brother in Christ as Paul has done?...
3. Subsequent decisions will demonstrate that the appeal of love is more powerful than the command of power.

### D. Epilogue: The Jesus Connections

*Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you... - Philemon 8-9*



**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
of  
Reno, Nevada**

**February 1, 2026**

# Service for Communion Sunday

## February 1, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

*It is precisely because Paul knows of Philemon's kindness and generosity in the past that he is able to entreat rather than command, and he looks forward to Philemon's love being shown once again, this time with reference to Onesimus.*

– Peter T. O'Brien, *Colossians and Philemon*, p.289

### For Love's Sake We Gather to Hear Again God's Appeal to Us

**Prelude** Nancy Tedford, piano  
**Welcome and Church Family News** Pastor Jay Hull  
**Call to Worship** **Psalm 8** (*hymnal*, p. 786) Chris Schlatter

### We Worship Our God, Our Father in Heaven

**\*Songs of Praise** Samuel Dueñas & the CPC Praise Band  
“The Lion & The Lamb” and “Living Hope”

[CCLI License #246069]

### **\*Time of Greeting**

**Children's Prayer Time** Katie Guerrero

### As God's Beloved Children We Confess Our Sin

**Prayer of Confession, Word of Assurance & Gloria Patri (#734)**

### **Time of Offering**

**Anthem** *Saved By Grace* – Tunney Covenant Choir  
\***Doxology (#731) & Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### God's Word Calls Us to Connect

#### **\*Hymn of Preparation:**

#561

“Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak”



**Scripture Reading:** **Philemon 4-8** (*p.1000*)

**Message:** *Argument #1: The Paul Connections*  
(*Philemon Unlocked* #3)

### At the Lord's Table We See That We Are God's Very Heart

**\*Unison Affirmation** The Apostles' Creed (*Hymnal* p.845)

### **Words of Institution and Distribution of the Elements**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

### We Go Forth to Be Useful to Our God & for His Purposes

#### **\*Closing Hymn**

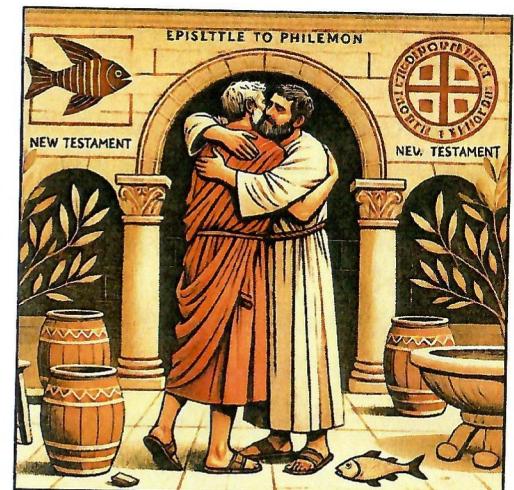
“Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting” #188

#### **\*Charge & Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response**  
“Praise the King”

#### **\*Postlude**

Nancy Tedford, organ



\* indicates to stand  
if you are able