

# From Useless to Useful Sermon Notes

Philemon 8-11

Rev. Brian Bill

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**Main Point:** The gospel reshapes our identity and restores our usefulness.

## An Appeal from \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 8)

1. Based on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Could refer to Christ's love for Philemon, Philemon's love for Christ, Paul's love for Philemon, or Paul's love for Onesimus.
  - Instead of laying down the law, he \_\_\_\_\_ out of love (Romans 13:8).
  - The word "appeal" means "to \_\_\_\_\_ to one's side; to exhort, encourage, plead, and beseech."
  - It can also be translated as, "to ask on \_\_\_\_\_ knee" and comes with a sense of urgency.
2. Based on \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 9).
  - In Paul's day, older men were considered wise and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We can all \_\_\_\_\_ from those who have walked with Christ longer than we have.
3. Based on life .
  - He had \_\_\_\_\_ a lot to bring the gospel to the lost, which included Philemon and his family. He's old and helpless because he's in prison and wants Philemon to heed his last request.

## An Appeal from Family \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 10)

1. Paul wanted to establish that Onesimus was now a fellow \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
2. By describing him as his spiritual child, Paul was emphasizing that this runaway slave was now his redeemed \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Paul magnified his appeal to Philemon by reminding him that he had the joy of leading Onesimus to Christ.
4. It's likely that Paul also led Philemon to Christ (Philemon 19).

## An Appeal from \_\_\_\_\_

1. We're called to bear fruit for our Father (vs. 11).
2. The word "formerly" refers to how Onesimus lived in the past as Philemon's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. To be "useless" means "\_\_\_\_\_, ineffective, idle, lazy, and worthless."
4. The name Onesimus means "\_\_\_\_\_."
5. When he served as a slave, he was considered "\_\_\_\_\_."
6. But "now" that he is a born-again believer with a new Master, he is "\_\_\_\_\_" to both Paul and Philemon as a fruitful brother involved in kingdom work (vs. 12).
7. When grace gets ahold of a life, even what once seemed wasted can become wonderfully \_\_\_\_\_ again.