

## Our Forever Family Notes

Philemon 12-16

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**Main Point:** Genuine love releases control, responds willingly, and rests in God's providence.

### \_\_\_\_\_ **What You Love Even When Your Heart Wants to Hold on.**

1. It was tearing Paul's heart out to send Onesimus back to Philemon because he had grown very \_\_\_\_\_ to him.
2. In verse 10, Paul calls Onesimus his "child" and in verse 16, he calls him his "beloved brother." In verse 17, he says "receive him as you would receive me."
3. The word "glad" means "my happy \_\_\_\_\_."
4. The phrase, "on your behalf" means, "in place of as your \_\_\_\_\_."

### **Respond \_\_\_\_\_, not Because You Have to.**

1. The word "consent" is a legal term and "goodness" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Paul didn't want to twist his arm or compel him by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. According to Deuteronomy 23:15-16, Paul had the \_\_\_\_\_ to keep Onesimus with him.
4. Paul chose love over law because he wanted Philemon to be \_\_\_\_\_ to set Onesimus free.
5. Do you give grudgingly because you have to, or because you get to?
6. My observation is that the more we give, the more \_\_\_\_\_ we become, and the more joyful we become, the more generous we become.

### **Rest in God's \_\_\_\_\_ as He works Out His Purposes.**

1. He is helping Philemon see that God is \_\_\_\_\_ His way and His will for His glory, even though Onesimus ran away and stole from him.
2. As bad as it was, it didn't last forever, and the benefits are huge because Philemon now has him "back \_\_\_\_\_" as a brother in God's forever family.
3. Providence is the preserving and \_\_\_\_\_ of all things under the intentional sovereign rule of God.
4. "Divine providence is the governance of God by which He, with wisdom and love, cares for and directs \_\_\_\_\_ things in the universe."
5. Instead of being treated as a slave, Onesimus would be considered a flesh and blood \_\_\_\_\_ member now that he is a blood-bought brother.

### **Action Steps**

1. Join God's forever family through the new birth (John 1:1).
2. Get connected with the family of God.
3. Stop running and return if you've been in a faraway place.

4. Make amends with someone you've wronged.
5. Forgive someone who has wronged you.
6. Be totally surrendered to Christ.