

# Philemon: Teaching Us Deep Truth Through Real-life Drama

## Philemon 10-19

### Introduction:

1. There are three principal characters in this story:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – who has a close partnership with Philemon. vs. 1
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – the offended head of Onesimus. vs. 11a
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – the rebel and enemy of Philemon, who now has a relationship with Paul. vs. 10
2. In this letter, Paul plays the role of mediator between Philemon and Onesimus.
3. There are some incredible spiritual truths that are put on display here in this little book.

### First spiritual truth – the doctrine of mediation

(Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ between me and God.)

1. Onesimus is a picture of every one of us before we found Christ. He was lost and without hope, in a completely alienated position.
  - *“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”* Ephesians 2:12
  - *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”* Colossians 1:21
2. A mediator stepped in to help condemned Onesimus. Paul mediated with Philemon on Onesimus’ behalf.
3. We also were in a hopeless, alienated position from God Almighty, but a \_\_\_\_\_ stepped in to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.
  - *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* 1 Timothy 2:5

## Second spiritual truth – the doctrine of imputation

(Christ takes my \_\_\_\_\_ and gives me His righteousness.)

1. In verses 18 and 19, Paul says to Philemon, “Take his \_\_\_\_\_ and all his wrongdoing and put that on my account. Credit me with the wrong he has done. Take **my** good standing that I have with you and put that on **his** account.”
2. This is a beautiful picture of the doctrine of imputation. 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 5:6-8
  - To impute simply means “to \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* 2 Corinthians 5:21
3. Christ takes every one of our \_\_\_\_\_ debts and has them imputed to Him. The moment we trust Him as our Savior, He takes His righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_ that to our account.

## Third spiritual truth – identification

(God now receives me as He does His own \_\_\_\_\_.)

1. In verse 17, Paul says, *“If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him **as myself.**”*
4. Think about it. Christ does for us what Paul did for Onesimus. We were alienated from God by wicked works.
5. But Christ has a loving, eternal, partnership relationship with the Father.  
John 1:1, 14:9-10
6. When you trust Christ, Christ says, “Father, I have paid all their sin debts, I have given them my righteousness; now receive them just like you would \_\_\_\_\_.”
7. When you got saved, you received an \_\_\_\_\_ identification in Christ whereby you are completely accepted and received by the Father. Ephesians 1:6, 3:12
  - *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”*  
Galatians 4:6-7
8. Aren't you thankful that God now sees you as \_\_\_\_\_?