

Questions to Consider

1. As you think about Paul's letter to Philemon, why do you think Paul included "the church that meets in your home" (v. 2) among the recipients? As a believer, how should you think about engaging your brothers and sisters in Christ when you face difficult decisions?
2. What are some possible reasons that the New Testament does not make a specific call to abolish slavery?
3. Philemon was required to decide about Onesimus on the basis of his faith in Christ. What is a significant and difficult decision you face and what bearing does the Gospel have on that decision?
4. As you engage with unbelievers about social/moral issues that God's Word speaks to, why is it important to not make those issues of greater importance than the Gospel?
5. Has a brother or sister recently refreshed your heart by serving you in the Lord? Have you thanked the Lord for that person, and have you shown him or her your gratitude?
6. Is there a brother or sister whose heart needs refreshing? What is a practical step that you can take to give them hope or provide help or encouragement?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

Refresh My Heart in Christ Philemon

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September 1, 2024*

Paul wrote to urge Philemon to live out his faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ and to refresh other believers by the gospel's transforming power.

Philemon ("dear friend and coworker")

Onesimus (A faithful and dearly loved brother, who is one of you. Colossians 4:9)

Onesimus could have been:

- Sent by Philemon to serve Paul.
- A slave with a grievance against Philemon who sought Paul as a mediator.
- A slave who stole from Philemon and ran from him, and eventually sought out Paul.

- 1. Philemon was challenged to live out his faith in Jesus Christ by releasing Onesimus to serve Paul.**
- 2. Paul was challenged to refresh Paul's heart by living out his faith in Christ.**