

Rome. There Onesimus met Paul, who led him to a saving knowledge of Jesus. The letter is Paul's kind, compassionate appeal to Philemon to accept Onesimus back--now as a brother. It's a great example of love in action.

Although Onesimus deserved Philemon's punishment, Paul called him a "son" (v.10) and a "beloved brother" (v.16). He said he would repay what Onesimus had stolen.

Paul knew how to restore a relationship. Do we? --JDB

*God of grace and God of goodness,
Teach me to be ever kind,
Always gentle and forgiving
With the Savior first in mind. --Brandt*

**Forgiveness is the glue
that repairs broken relationships.**



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

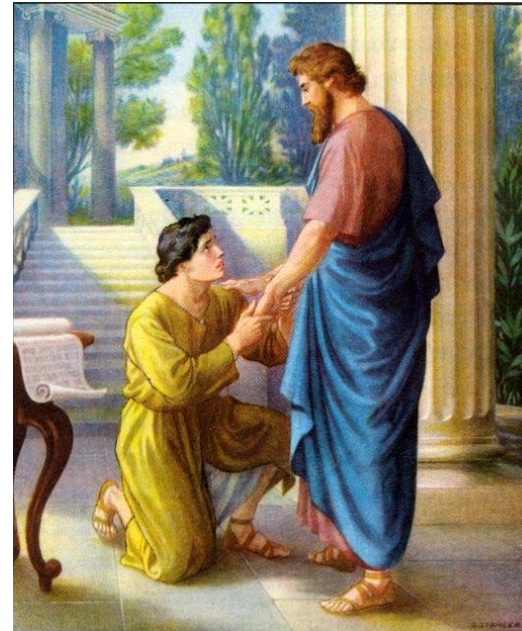
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Relationship Under Repair

**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. . --
Ephesians 4:32**

Are you easy to get along with? Do you have a good relationship with your spouse or your friends? Then you probably aren't guilty of the following behaviours:

- ◆ criticising instead of praising
- ◆ using insensitive words
- ◆ neglecting others
- ◆ making jokes at another's expense
- ◆ not listening
- ◆ refusing to admit wrong
- ◆ being rude
- ◆ belittling others' opinions



These kinds of behaviour will wreck relationships and hinder the healing of past hurts.

For a good example of the way to strengthen relationships, read the apostle Paul's short letter to Philemon, a wealthy resident of Colosse. The subject is Onesimus, Philemon's slave, who had stolen from him and fled to



Drawing Close

Granting Forgiveness

We can group all the questions about forgiveness into two basic questions:

1. How does _____ forgive _____? Matthew 18:15

(Daniel 9:8-9) *"O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. {9} To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him."*

(Psalms 86:5) *"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You."*



◆ There are times when God _____ forgive,

(Exodus 34:7) *"keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."*

(Numbers 14:18) *"The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation."*

(Matthew 12:31) *"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men."*

(1 John 5:16) *"... There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that."*

◆ There are times when God _____ forgive,

(Leviticus 4:20) *"And he shall do with the bull as he did with the bull as a sin offering... So the priest shall make atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them."*

(Hebrews 9:22) *"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."*



(Hebrews 9:22) *"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." [paraphrase]*
(1 John 2:2) *"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."*
(2 Chronicles 7:14) *"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*



(1 John 1:9) *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

(Jeremiah 31:34) *"No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

2. How do _____ forgive _____? Ephesians 4:31-32

(Matthew 6:15) *"But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

(Matthew 18:33-35) *"Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you? {34} And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. {35} So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*



◆ SCENARIO #1: The one who sinned _____,

LEVEL #1 FORGIVENESS: We are not to _____ the sin _____ them.

(This is the _____ component of forgiveness), Ephesians 4:31-32

(Romans 12:19) *"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."*

◆ SCENARIO #2: The one who sinned _____,

LEVEL #2 FORGIVENESS: The relationship is _____.

(This is the _____ component of forgiveness), 1 John 1:9

(Luke 17:3) *"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."*



Forgiveness includes four promises:

1. I won't _____ on this incident,
2. I won't use this _____ you,
3. I won't _____ to _____ about this,
4. I won't let this incident _____
_____ us,

