



Three

Biblical Steps to
Forgiveness

Philemon 8-25

Review of Philemon 1-7

- Who were Philemon, Apphia, Archippus and Onesimus?
- What was the first, second and third **spiritual characteristics of forgiveness?**

Background to Pauls' Request

Philemon 8-16

- **Why did Paul urge Philemon to not take action because: a) the apostle Paul was writing, b) Paul was old and 3) Paul was in prison (v. 8-9)?**
- **Who was the apostle Paul writing about in v. 10-16? What did you learn about him?**
- **What reason does Paul give as a possible reason for God allowing Onesimus to run away (v. 15-16)?**

First Biblical Step to Forgiveness

Philemon 17

- **What is the first biblical step to forgiving someone who has offended us (v. 17)?**

- **How does Scripture reveal that the decision to forgive must not be determined by our emotions, but by our head (Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 3:12-13)?**

Second Biblical Step to Forgiveness

Philemon 18-19

- **What is the second biblical step to forgiving someone who has offended us (v. 18-19)?**

- **What does Matthew 5:39-44 reveal about forgiveness? How should you forgive others?**

Third Biblical Step to Forgiveness

Philemon 20

- **What is the third biblical step to forgiving someone who has offended us (v. 20)?**

- **How does Luke 23:34 and Acts 7:59-60 reveal that forgiveness is done from a heart of love for Jesus' sake?**

Conclusion

Philemon 21-25

- **Did Philemon forgive Onesimus? If so, why?**
- **What eventually did God do with Onesimus?**
- **How do we forgive someone with whom we are angry and hurt?**