

A Living Lesson of Forgiveness

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philemon.

II. Forgiveness makes men like God. (Exodus 34)

A. Real forgiveness will be unappreciated.

B. God is forgiving so we should be. God has forgiven us, so we should forgive. (Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13)

C. Forgiveness is to be endlessly given. (Matthew 18:22, Hebrews 12:31)

III. The theme of Philemon is forgiveness.

A. Onesimus was Philemon's slave who had run away. He committed a major crime.

B. Paul sent Onesimus back in order to get forgiveness from Philemon. He sends a letter in order to tell Philemon that he should forgive Onesimus. (Colossians 4)

C. One is never more like God than when he forgives.

Application Questions:

1. Why is forgiveness so difficult?

2. Who is someone in your life that you can extend forgiveness to?

3. How does understanding the nature of forgiveness help us to extend it to others more freely? Explain.
