

**“Onesimus' Courage”** by Kirk Hunt

*And I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*

Philemon 1:10 (KJV)

I want video tape of the conversation between Paul and Onesimus. It's one thing for the Apostle to risk his own life in confrontations with powerful men. It's another thing for an escaped slave and all-but-convicted thief to do the same. Still, the Apostle convinced his newest Disciple to return to his master.

Onesimus' crimes are two-fold. In the first part, A runaway slave deprived his master of his valuable services. In the second part, to steal a valuable object on the way out the door is to add insult to injury. The penalty for either crime could be harsh and brutal.

Onesimus' courage is high indeed. He did the right thing, despite the possible consequences. With only a slip of parchment between him and the full-force of Roman slave law, Onesimus approached Philemon and asked for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Scripture does not record the exact outcome of Onesimus' return to Philemon. What is important is that Onesimus made the effort to right old wrongs. He made the effort to put the past, once and for all, behind him.

Perhaps you have an open issue in your life. May I commend the courage of Onesimus to you? Philemon didn't have the chance to be forgiving Christian man until Onesimus had the courage to seek reconciliation.

**Think:** Reconciliation starts with Godly courage.

**Pray:** “Father-God, help me to be reconciled with my family, natural or spiritual.”

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