

The Structure of the Letter to Philemon

- I. Opening Greetings (1:1–3)**
- II. Philemon’s Love and Faith (1:4–7)**
- III. Paul’s Appeal for Onesimus (1:8–22)**
- IV. Closing Greetings (1:23–25)**

Main Theme: A Brotherly Appeal for Onesimus

Major Themes

- 1. Faith and Love
- 2. Christianity and Slavery
- 3. Repentance and Recompense

Key Text

Philemon 1:8-10 ⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.