

# Family Values

## Useful, not useless

**Scriptures:** Philemon; Col. 4:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:28

1. Read Philemon. What is the context? Basically, what's going on? Do you find Paul's approach to Philemon somewhat lacking in diplomacy, in places?
2. Why would it have been a risky thing for Onesimus to return to Philemon? In which way does Paul ask Philemon to go the extra mile?
3. In which ways are v11 and v16 a key to this letter. What is the pun that Paul uses in v11?
4. In which way is Paul, through this narrative, acting out his own theology? See 2 Cor. 5:17 and Gal. 3:28 as examples.
5. In which way is "grace" unique to the Christian religion?
6. "There is nothing that we can do to cause God to love us more than he does, and there is nothing that we can do to cause God to love us less than he does" Philip Yancey.
  - ~ Why won't God love us more if we are "good" Christians?
  - ~ Why won't God love us less if we are "not so good" Christians?
7. Why is the message of God's grace the most important message we have for our world?