

UNSHAKEABLE

Part 5 Philemon 10-11

¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I fathered in my imprisonment, ¹¹ who **previously was useless** to you, but **now is useful** both to you and to me.

Life Principle: ANYONE who is willing is useful to God!

- **PERCEIVED** barriers to being useful to God:

Your **PAST**

Your **WEAKNESSES/LACK OF ABILITY**

Your **ECONOMIC/SOCIAL** status

Your **MARITAL STATUS / GENDER / AGE / RACE**

- **ACTUAL** barriers to being useful to God:

Cultural **DISTRACTIONS**

Personal **PASSIVITY**

Heart **RESISTANCE**

- **THREE** steps for living in the 'useful' space:

- 1) Keep your **HEART** right with God **vs. 16**
- 2) Make things right with **PEOPLE** you've wronged **vs. 12-14**
- 3) Find a place and **SERVE!** **vs. 13**

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 7, 2021

Philemon vv. 10-11 *I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I fathered in my imprisonment, who previously was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.*

DISCOVER

1. Who is Onesimus? What is his relationship to Philemon? What is his relationship to Paul?
2. What does it mean "begotten in my imprisonment"?
3. What was Paul's motivation for sending Onesimus back to Philemon when Paul could have used him as a helper?

EXPLORE

1. Why was Onesimus now so much more useful than before? What happened to Onesimus during the time he had been away from Philemon and with Paul?
2. Paul is asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus. Did Onesimus deserve forgiveness? What does this tell us about the nature of forgiveness? How can you succinctly define "forgiveness"?
3. Was Paul clear in his request? What else can we learn from Paul about communication between believers?

EXPERIENCE

1. A lot of people feel useless or purposeless. What are some of the reasons people feel this way? Do they have good reason? How can you encourage believers and non-believers?
2. What does "getting your heart right with God" mean? What barriers might have to be dealt with to be at peace with the Lord? Is it possible to realize what is actually wrong in a floundering relationship apart from God? Explain.
3. Getting your heart right with God is crucial before attempting to resolve a wrong in a personal relationship. Why is this such a critical first step? How does this effect the outcome of your reconciliation efforts?
4. In your experience, what kinds of things might you have to "go back and clear-up"? What should others see when you do this? What would your motive be for returning to that place where you were side-tracked? What happens in you as a result?

PRAY

Praise God that He is relentless in stirring your heart, especially when He calls you for a higher, nobler purpose. Ask that God would help you see His favor in your Kingdom labor; that you would be encouraged, strengthened and tireless in these endeavors; that those who work alongside of you would also be like-hearted. Pray that God would short-circuit the distractions that inevitably arise as you co-labor with Him.