



MAKING A CHANGE - Onesimus

Life is full of change. Sometimes, the changes we make are not good. However, don't forget the positive changes you have made. Let's check out a Biblical case study.

Philemon 10-18 - Paul writes to Philemon - I rather appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who was once unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am sending him back. Please receive him though I wish to keep him here with me. For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him not only as a slave, but also as a brother. If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge that to me.

1. Onesimus is a slave belonging to Philemon. What wrong change (decision) did he make? _____
2. In what ways did he betray or dishonor Philemon? _____

3. Y N Is there any doubt that God was in control of this whole event to have Onesimus run to the same town where Paul was being incarcerated?
4. Philemon was probably a convert of Paul's. The Colosse church met in Philemon's house. Paul had probably never been to Colosse, but rather sent Epaphras to preach there and start the church. How did Onesimus know about Paul?

5. If Onesimus actually looked for Paul for help but knew full well that Paul would send him back to Philemon, how serious was Onesimus to make a life change?

6. When Paul & Onesimus met, what was the life change? _____

7. Explain "once a slave, now a servant". _____

8. Explain "was unprofitable to you but now is profitable to you."

9. Have you experienced a life of not being profitable to anyone? Explain.

10. Did you make a life change (decision) that caused your life to start becoming profitable to yourself & to someone else? Explain.

11. Even though good choices can be made now, we may still have to face consequences for bad choices made in years past. Who did Onesimus have to go back to Colosse and face? _____

12. When Onesimus decided to change his life by accepting Christ as Savior, he was entering a new direction.

a. Who was committed to giving him support? _____

b. Who hopefully would help him in the future? _____

13. Y N Is it fair to say that God took a bad decision and turned it into a good decision?

Colossians 4:7-9 - I am sending Tychicus to you to report news about me. Onesimus, a faithful & beloved brother, who is from your town, is coming with him.

14. Sometimes, making a life change requires you to move somewhere away from people. What did Paul tell Onesimus to do?

15. When we make life changes changing the focus from ourselves to others, we open up the opportunity to minister to others. How did this work for Onesimus? _____

16. Y N Do you agree with this statement? It might be time in middle of my life change to focus on me first.

17. How is Onesimus described in Colossians 4:7-9?

18. What impact did Onesimus' return to Colosse have on:

a. Himself: _____

b. Philemon: _____

c. The other slaves: _____