

THE WORK OF RECONCILIATION / *Philemon 18*

What Paul did for Onesimus parallels what Christ did for us.

Paul and Onesimus

Onesimus had wronged Philemon and thus was separated from him.

Paul had not been involved with Onesimus's guilt.

Paul wrote this letter to reconcile Onesimus and Philemon.

The debt Onesimus had with Philemon had to be paid.

Paul took on a debt that was not his own by promising to repay to Philemon.

Christ and Us

Sinners have wronged God and are thus separated from him (Romans 3:23).

Jesus was sinless, separated from sinners (Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus' work on the cross reconciled sinners and the holy God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

The penalty for sin had to be paid (Romans 6:23).

Jesus took on the debt of sin that was not his own (the sins of the whole world) and paid it by his death (John 1:29; Romans 5:8-9; Hebrews 7:27; 9:26, 28).