

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.

We are to do what is right regardless of the cost.



Paul recognizes that we must deal with our past before we can move on with our future.



People need to know you care and believe in them



I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus.

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

People need to know you care and believe in them

Sometimes asking is better than demanding



Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

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Point out the benefits of doing the right thing



that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

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Set a good example



I'm doing the right thing and I expect you to do the right thing



I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.

I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel.

People need to know you care and believe in them Sometimes asking is better than demanding Point out the benefits of doing the right thing Set a good example

Don't back people into a corner



But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

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Ask in a way that encourages a right response



So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it. And I won't mention that you owe me your very soul!

I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

People need to know you care and believe in them Sometimes asking is better than demanding Point out the benefits of doing the right thing Set a good example Don't back people into a corner Ask in a way that encourages a right response I believe you'll do the right thing

Provide accountability



And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

- People need to know you care and believe in them
- Sometimes asking is better than demanding
- Point out the benefits of doing the right thing
- Set a good example
- Don't back people into a corner
- Ask in a way that encourages a right response
- I believe you'll do the right thing
- Provide accountability



