

SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHANGING A PERSON'S LIFE THROUGH FORGIVENESS

11/27/2022

Text: Philemon 1:17-25

Theme: A biblical example of how to reconcile people.

Forgiveness is one of the identifying marks of Christianity. **As we become more like Christ we become more forgiving.** It is one of the evidences of Christian love

Onesimus was the slave of Philemon – willing to “run” 1,000 miles to get away from Philemon – but could not get away from God

The request for reconciliation (vv. 8-16)

The request for reception (vv. 17-25)

To forgive a fugitive

? How do we know Philemon did forgive him?

Key passage: Colossians 4:7-9

✠ **Colossians was written within a year of Philemon**

Tradition has it that Onesimus became a bishop

The Lord uses all kinds of people to build His church

God's grace and mercy transformed Onesimus into “a faithful and beloved brother”, **but God also used Philemon's grace and mercy to help transform him.**