

Sermon text: Philemon 8 - 16

Historical background

1. Philemon was a wealthy Christian and a patron in Colossae.
2. Onesimus had run away from Philemon.
3. This was a loss of honour and a financial loss to Philemon

4. Under Roman law, the punishments for a runaway slave were very severe.

5. It is possible that Onesimus sought out Paul because Onesimus knew that Paul had converted Philemon to Christianity.

6. Now, Paul also converted Onesimus to Christianity and Onesimus was useful in Paul's mission work

7. However, under Roman law, Onesimus had to be returned to Philemon and Paul knew this.

8. Paul now writes this Letter.

RELATIONSHIPS

PAUL

Partners
(v1, 17)

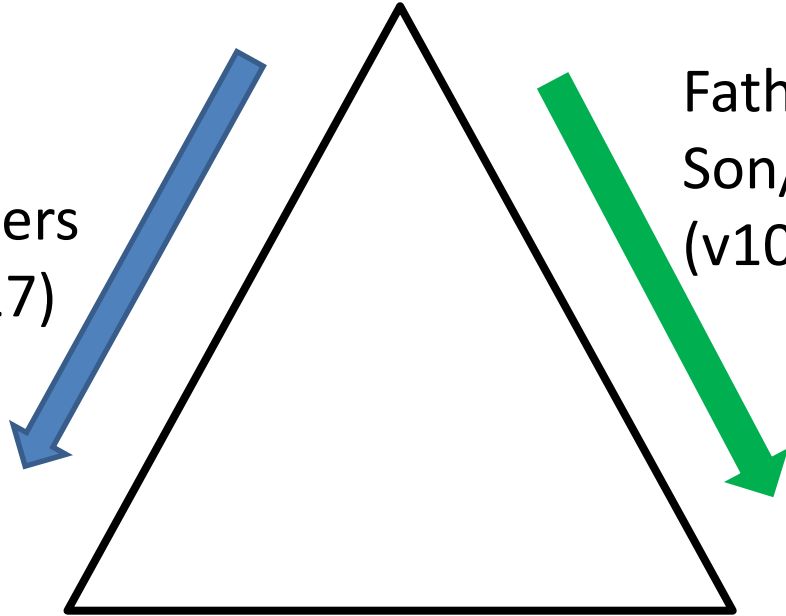
Father –
Son/Child
(v10)

PHILEMON

ONESIMUS

Master - Slave

HONOUR & SHAME



BEFORE THE LETTER

PAUL

Respect

Trust

Love
(1, 9)

Love
(v12)

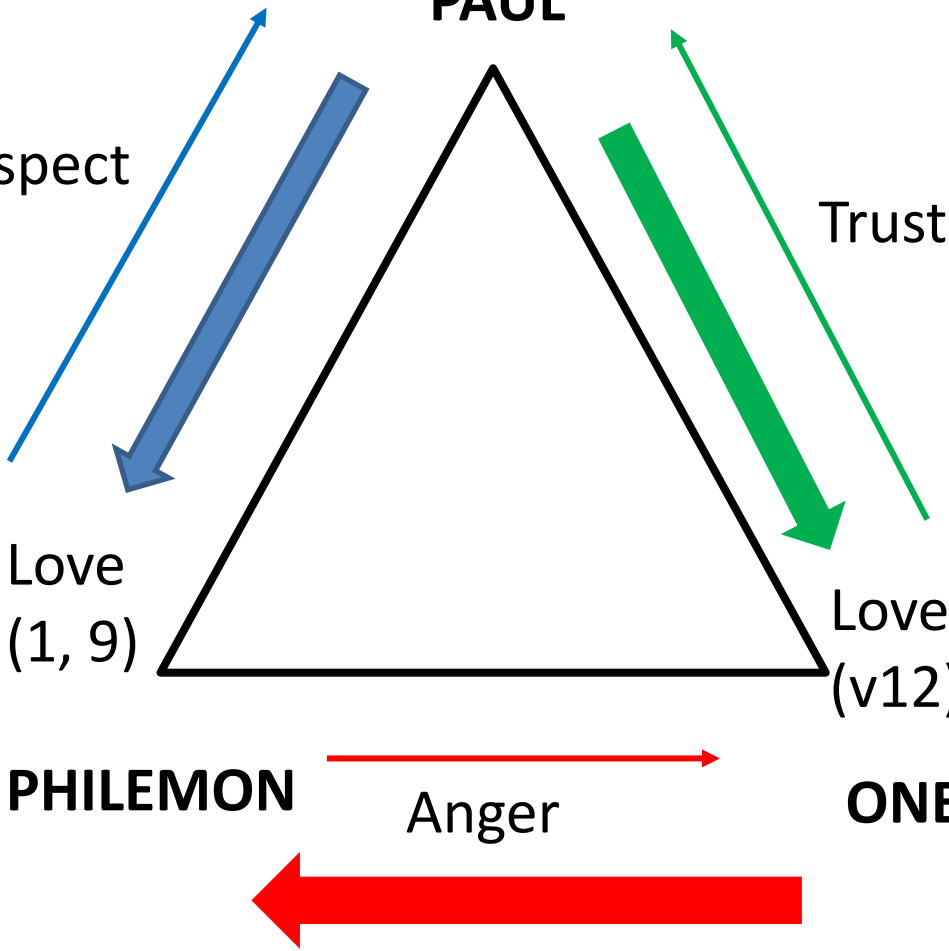
PHILEMON

Anger

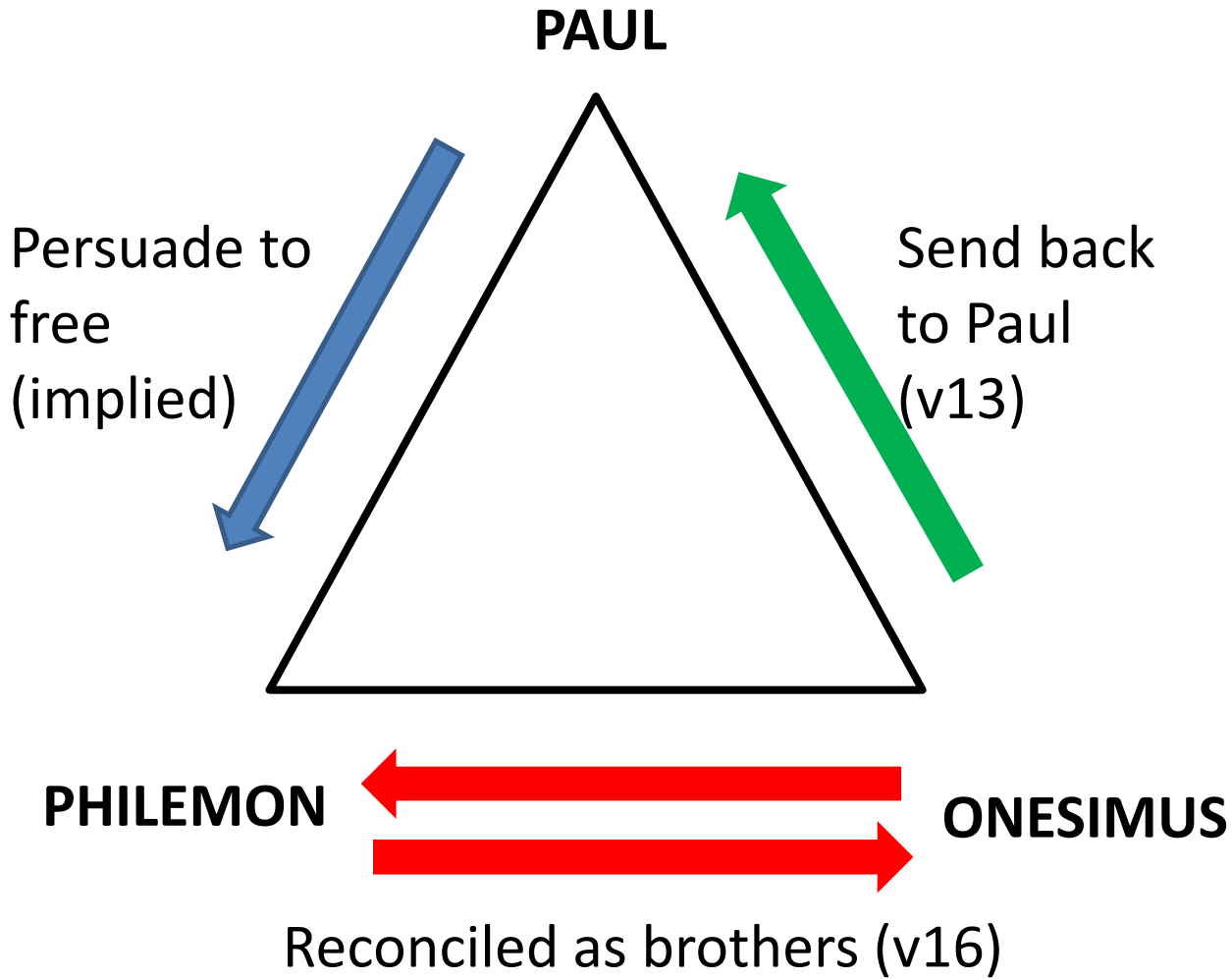
ONESIMUS

Fear

HONOUR & SHAME



GOAL OF THE LETTER



HONOUR & SHAME

Key points for today

a. Vv 8 – 10: Paul appeals (not commands) for Onesimus his “child”

b. Vv 11 – 13: The power of a transformed life in Christ

c. Vv 14 – 16: God’s divine purpose for Philemon & Onesimus

Verses 8 – 10

PAUL

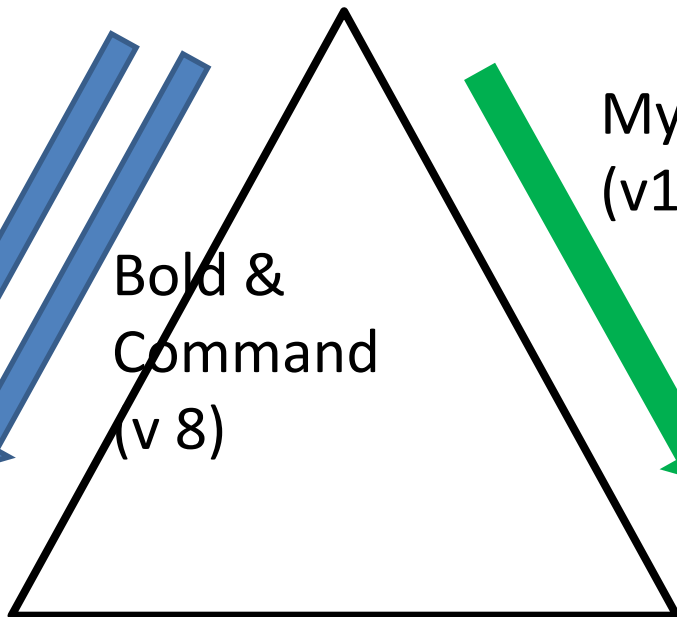
I appeal
(v 9, 10)

Bold &
Command
(v 8)

My son/child
(v10 x 2)

PHILEMON

ONESIMUS

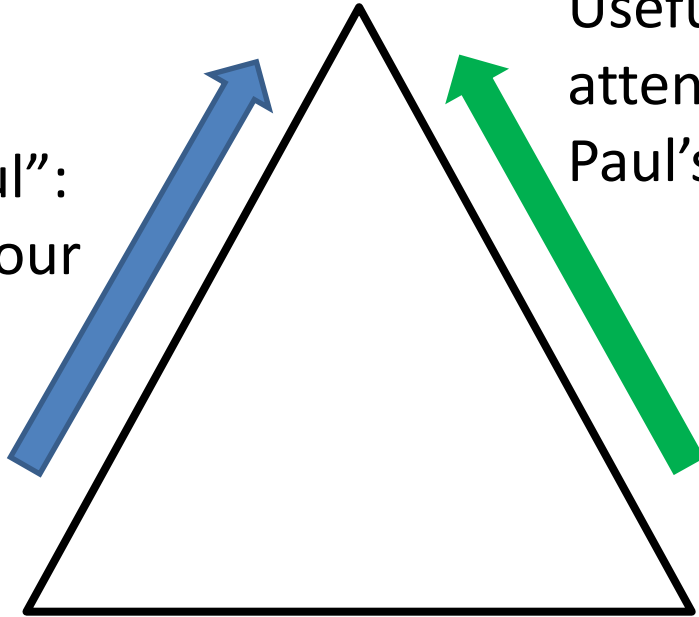


Verses 11 – 13

PAUL

Useful (v11b);
attending to
Paul's needs

"Useful":
Take your
place
(v 13)



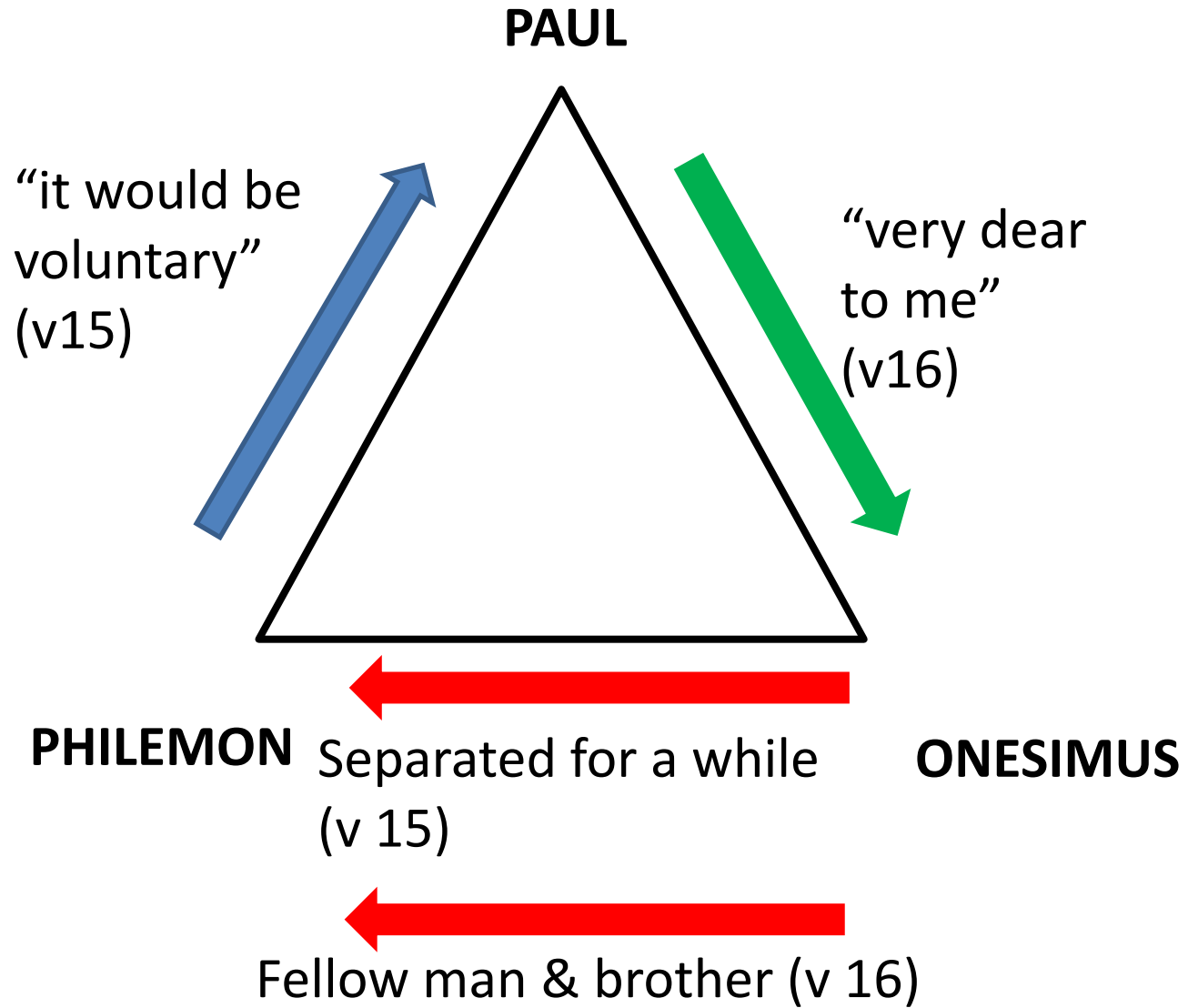
PHILEMON

Useless (v11a)

ONESIMUS

Useful (v11b)
Send back (v12)

Verses 14 – 16



God's divine plan: Joseph's life

a. Joseph sold into slavery by his brothers: Gen 37:21 – 24; 50:20

b. Joseph framed by Potiphar's wife and jailed: Gen 39:19 – 23

c. Joseph forgotten by cupbearer before the King: Gen 40:20 – 23; 41:15 – 16

d. Joseph's brothers are re-united because of the great famine: Gen 42:1 – 9

e. Joseph's disappointment with Jacob's blessing of his 2 children: Gen 48:17 – 20