

**Building Bridges**  
**Winning Relationships**

*Philemon 8-11*

**8** Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,

**9** yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul - an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus -

**10** I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

**11** Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

## **I. The Games People Play – Philemon 8-11**

**8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,**

**9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul - an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus -**

**10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.**

**11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.**

## **A. Developing Positive Relationships**

### **1. Competition**

### **2. Compromise**

### **3. Complacency**

**4. Capitulation – 1 Kings 1:18-19; 2 Chronicles 20:2; 12; 15-17**

*1 Kings 1:18-19*

*2 Chronicles 20:2*

**2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi).**

*2 Chronicles 20:12*

**12 O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."**

*2 Chronicles 20:15 – 17*

**15 He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.**

**16- Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.**

**17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you."**

**5. Cooperation – Philemon 11**

**11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.**

**II. The Only Way to Win – Philemon 8**

**8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,**

**A. A Sensitive Appeal – v 8-9**

**8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,**

**9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul - an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus –**

**B. Makin Things Right – v9**

**9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul - an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus –**

**C. Giving Up Our Rights – v9**

**9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul - an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus –**

**D. Overcoming Through Love – v9-10; Matthew 11:28-29**

*Philemon 9-10*

**9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul - an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus -**

**10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.**

*Matthew 11:28 - 29*

**28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**

**29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

**E. No Small Request –vs 7 & 10-11**

*Philemon 1:7*

**7 Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.**

*Philemon 1:10 – 11*

**10I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.**

**11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.**

**F. Everybody Wins - V 16**

**16 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 man and as a brother in the Lord.**