

# Message Reflections

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

*Message Reflections accompany the [weekly message](#).*

When I was young, before I would go out with my friends, my Dad would say to me, "Remember who you are." In these four words, Dad was saying, "you are my son, and when you go out tonight, you represent me and our family. More than this, you are a child of God, and when you go out tonight, you represent the Lord God Almighty, so remember who you are." Thirty years later, I often say these words to my own kids.

In Paul's letter to Philemon, Paul used many words to say, "Remember who you are." Paul never straight out says, "Philemon, I want you to forgive Onesimus." But he does say, "Philemon, you are a fellow worker for Christ. You have faith in the Lord Jesus. And, you are my brother in Christ." Then Paul says to Philemon, "I am sending you Onesimus, who is like my son in Christ. My brother, remember who you are and receive Onesimus as you would receive me."

As we read between the lines, we learn Onesimus was Philemon's slave, and he ran away. And it would seem Onesimus also owes Philemon a debt. When Philemon sees Onesimus, he has every right under the law to take Onesimus back as a slave and require Onesimus to pay back every last cent. Then he reads the letter from Paul, and Philemon is reminded, he is a follower of Christ, and as a Christ follower, "Remember who you are."

For the Christ follower, remembering and living who we are in Christ is not always easy. It's not complicated, but it isn't easy. After all, Jesus made remembering who we are simple. In God's Word, we are instructed to love God and love others, because the world will know us by our love. We are also instructed to forgive others because He has forgiven us. And, we are instructed to walk in step with the Holy Spirit so that the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God will be evident in our lives to a world that needs Him.

Love God. Love Others. Forgive as you have been forgiven. Walk in step with the Holy Spirit so He might produce fruit through you. Easy, right?

If you are finding it difficult to live and remember who you are in Christ, I encourage you to first open your Bible to Philippians 4:13. You can do all things through Christ, for He is your strength. All things include loving God, loving others, forgiving others, and producing fruit.

Next, read the letter from Paul to Philemon and put yourself in the letter. Right now, who are you in this letter? Are you Paul? Is there someone you need to teach and mentor about what it means to remember who they are in Christ? Are you Apphia or Archippus? Is there a situation or a circumstance in your small group the Lord is calling you to help bring healing? Are you Onesimus? Have you wronged someone, and you need to go to them and seek forgiveness? Or are you Philemon? Is God calling you to forgive someone and show them the love of Christ, the same love that has been shown to you?

