

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

Fear, Love & Trust

## Law/Gospel

Onesimus was not content to be a slave, so he ran away, perhaps taking with him something that belonged to his master, Philemon. Contentment is a challenge for me, too, as I sinfully resent God for not giving me everything that I want and instead covet what belongs to others. **In Paul's willingness to cover the expense of releasing Onesimus, I see the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that I would no longer be a bondservant to sin, but rather a child of my heavenly Father.**

## Take-Home Point

God commands that I be content.

## Bible Words

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.  
Philippians 4:11

## Prayer

*Lord God, thank You for sending Jesus to pay our debts. Help us to grow in our ability to trust You to care for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## Paul and Philemon

### Book of Philemon

**S**t. Paul, the former Pharisee, persecuted the Christian Church before meeting the risen Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. Changing direction, Paul fervently taught about Jesus while working as a tentmaker.

Later in life, while imprisoned for the Gospel, Paul met a runaway bondservant named Onesimus and became his father in Christ. Onesimus's master, Philemon, was also a Christian and a friend to Paul. Paul wrote to ask Philemon not to punish Onesimus, to accept him back as a brother in Christ, and to release him to the Lord's ministry. This was a substantial request, as Philemon had a financial investment in Onesimus.

We struggle with similar decisions. Covetous desires for riches often lead us into sin and away from a relationship with our Lord. Our heavenly Father graciously gives us all that we need and invites us to pray to Him, asking for the things we want as a child speaks to a father.

There is no sin in making or working toward life goals, such as education, friends, marriage, children, and career. However, when we desire these things more than we love God, or pursue them even though it means disobeying our heavenly Father, we sin.

In his letter, Paul offered to pay the price of Onesimus's freedom, something the bondservant could never do for himself. This points us to the work of Jesus Christ, who willingly paid the price of our freedom. As sinners, we could never free ourselves, but Jesus took our debt upon Himself. Jesus paid our debt in full on the cross, setting us free from the slavery of sin and death and making us children of our heavenly Father.

## From the Catechism

### The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

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