**One Hit Wonders** (graphic)

**Philemon**

(Philemon 1:1-3)

“Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Philemon 1:4-7)

“I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your **partnership** with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. **Your love has given me great joy and encouragement**, because **you**, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.”

1. **Affirmation** before confrontation.

(Philemon 1:8-9)

“Therefore, although in Christ **I could be bold and order you** to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the **basis of love**.”

1. **Hard** words don’t have to be **harsh** words.

(Philemon 1:9-12)

“It is none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—that I appeal to you for my son **Onesimus**, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become **useful** to you and to me. I am sending him—**who is my very heart**—back to you.”

(Philemon 1:14-17)

“But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem **forced** but would be **voluntary**. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—**no longer as a slave, but better that a slave, as a dear brother**. He is very dear to me but ever dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.”

1. **Forgiveness** has far-reaching **social** and **spiritual** impact.

(Philemon 1:18-19)

“If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, **charge it to me**. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. **I will pay it back**—”

1. Let **nothing** stand in the way of forgiveness.

(Philemon 1:21)

“**Confident** of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.”

**You have what it takes** to forgive.