

## Brother To Brother

Intro: While we have Paul's words to Philemon in our minds from last Sunday night, I would like to take a few moments to observe how Paul perceived his relationship with Philemon. By what Paul says to Philemon, we can also gain great insight into how Philemon felt about Paul. More importantly, we can come to understand the faith in Christ that was their bond of brotherhood.

1. Brothers have a bond.

When people receive the same gift, a strong and meaningful bond develops. V 5, 7

2. Brothers want others to have the same great relationship they have.

They wanted the same gift for everybody. V 6

3. Brothers aren't afraid to ask something from a brother.

Paul was asking Philemon to treat someone better than that person deserved. V 10-16

4. Brothers believe in their brothers.

Paul "believed" in Philemon. V.21-22

5. Brothers don't ask brothers to make all the sacrifices.

Paul knew friendship is a two-way-street. V. 17-20 (We are asked to treat all people well, even our enemies, but God recognizes how special bonds can affect us)

6. Brothers can often be very blunt.

Paul to Philemon - "To say nothing of your owing me even your own self". V.19

7. Brothers will have many friends in common.

Paul and Philemon shared the same friends. V 23-24

8. Brothers are driven in life by the same forces.

Paul reminded Philemon of the guiding force in both of their lives. V 25

Conclusion: One cannot be overly impressed with the meaning of all people in Paul's life. They were a great source of joy and yes, pain in his life. But Paul had "brothers". This brotherhood was not based on similar recreational interests or anything lack that. These were *brothers in salvation*. People who share life threatening situations and survive have a bond that last a lifetime. In the last sentence, replace the word "life" with "eternal soul" and we can understand "brother Paul".