

## BELOVED BROTHER

In today's lesson's text, Paul began with his theological reason for Philemon to consider releasing Onesimus from slavery – "For perhaps he was for this reason parted from you **for a while**, that you should have him back **forever**, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, **a beloved brother**, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord."

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

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|-------------------|---------|----------|
| • Slave status    | Bondage | Fugitive |
| • Saved status    | Brother | Family   |
| • Superior status | Beloved | Faith    |

**This lesson will study five aspects of Paul's theological reason for Philemon releasing Onesimus from slavery as a BELOVED BROTHER.**

**1. BELOVED (agapetos) BROTHER (adelphos) is a theological title to describe the saved relationship between God as Father and the believer as His son.**

It is an eternal title of every Church Age Believer (CAB): "**Forever (aionios)**, no longer (ouketi) as (hos) a slave, but (alla / adversative) more than (huper+ablative) [above / superior] a slave, **a beloved brother.**"

Beloved brother refers to every CAB being the object worthy of God's maximum love as a Father to a son based on grace salvation resulting from faith in the gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:4-5; Rom.1:16).

"But as many as received Him, to them **He gave the right to become children of God**, even to those who **believe** on His name, who were **born** not of blood, nor to the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**" (John 1:12-13)

This doctrinal principle will be especially important to Onesimus - "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, '**Abba! Father.**' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are **children of God.**" (Rom.8:15-16)

**2. The title BELOVED BROTHER is transferred to every CAB at the moment of grace salvation based on being in union with Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God.**

The title Beloved Son was ascribed to Jesus on three different occasions in the Book of Matthew.

### **Baptism of Jesus**

"And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" (Matt.3:17)

### **Sabbath controversy**

"My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased." (Matt.12:18; Isa.42:1)

### **Transfiguration of Jesus**

"This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him." (Matt.17:5; 2 Pet.1:17-18)

In the parable of the Wicked Vine-growers, Jesus is depicted as the Beloved Son who the tenants murdered (**Luke 20:9-18**) "And the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send **my beloved son**; perhaps they will respect him.'"

**3. BELOVED and BROTHER are 2 of the 50 things that every CAB receives in the package of grace salvation that he/she can never lose in time or eternity (1 John 4:9-10).**

In our pamphlet entitled, 50 Things FREE, Beloved and Brother are listed among the 20 Status Privileges as children of the royal family of God (1 Pet.2:5, 9).

“But we should always give thanks to God for you, **brethren beloved by the Lord**, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.” (2 Thess.2:13)

**Beloved:** “To all who are **beloved of God** in Rome, called as saints.” (Rom.1:7) “And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy, **beloved**.” (Col.3:12a)

**Brother:** “To the saints and faithful **brethren in Christ** who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.” (Col.1:2) “Knowing, **brethren beloved by God**, His choice of you.” (1 Thess.1:4)

**4. In grace salvation, every CAB becomes a BELOVED BROTHER on the basis of positional sanctification.**

“In love, He predestined us to adoption **as sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which he freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**.” (Eph.1:5-6)

“For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of **His Beloved Son**.” (Col.1:13)

**Positional Sanctification** is the result of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (positional truth)

“For you are **all sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus. For **all** of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed your selves with Christ.” (Gal.3:26-27)

“For by one Spirit we were **all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were **all** made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Cor.12:13)

“See **how great a love** the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called **children of God**; and **such we are**. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.” (1 John 3:1)

**5. Therefore, every CAB is always the object of God’s maximum love whether a carnal or spiritual BELOVED BROTHER (1 Cor.3:1-3).**

An example of this doctrinal principle is given in the parable of the Prodigal Son – “And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father **saw** him, and **felt compassion** for him, and **ran** and **embraced** him, and **kissed** him.” (15:20)

“For those whom the **Lord loves** He disciplines, and he scourges **every son** whom He receives.” (Heb.12:6)

“I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, **even as Thou didst love Me**.” (John 17:23)