

**How to Get What You Want from Christians**

<sup>1</sup>This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker, <sup>2</sup> and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house.

<sup>3</sup>May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, <sup>5</sup>because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God’s people. <sup>6</sup>And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. <sup>7</sup>Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God’s people.

**1. PRAY, BECAUSE ONLY GOD CAN \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different.” Mark 10:42-43*

<sup>8</sup>That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do. <sup>9</sup>But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. <sup>11</sup>Onesimus hasn’t been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.

<sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf. <sup>14</sup>But I didn’t want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced.

**2. ASK \_\_\_\_\_, IF YOU WANT SOMEONE’S HELP.**

*The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16*

A. *It's okay to* \_\_\_\_\_.

B. *Recognize it will* \_\_\_\_\_.

C. *Social capital is* \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>15</sup> It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. <sup>16</sup> He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. <sup>19</sup> I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!

**3. DON'T BE ASHAMED TO** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Jesus said to them, "I assure you that anyone who has left house, husband, wife, brothers, sisters, parents, or children because of God's kingdom will receive many times more in this age and eternal life in the coming age."*  
Luke 18:29-30 CEB

<sup>20</sup> Yes, my brother, please do me this favor for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ.

<sup>21</sup> I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more! <sup>22</sup> One more thing—please prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that God will answer your prayers and let me return to you soon.

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. <sup>24</sup> So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.

<sup>25</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

**4. WHEN YOU'RE DONE,** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.*  
Genesis 2:19 NIV

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*  
Ephesians 3:30