

VII. LETTERS

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SESSION 7



See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand!

Galatians 6.11 (NRSV)

1. Name the seven authentic letters of Paul:
2. Crossan distinguishes between the radical Paul, the conservative Paul, and the reactionary Paul. Explain.
3. What are the conditions Crossan places on the “heart of Paul” quoted from Galatians 3.28?
4. How do the Roman *fugitivus* (fugitive) and *amicus domini* (friend of the master) laws inform your understanding of the letter to Philemon?
5. Paul’s core theological principles of “faith,” “works,” “grace,” and “justification” are critical considerations in his letter regarding Onesimus. Explain.
6. What are the implications of the letter to Philemon for the relationship between Christian slaves and Christian masters?
7. How are Ephesians, Colossians, Titus, and Timothy the first steps towards Christianity’s accommodation of the Roman Empire?
8. Where do you see this information influencing your spirituality? The church? The world?