
Forgiving One Another

Introduction: Why are we this way?

(prone to bitterness & slow to forgive)

- Our fallen-sin nature: (Ro 7)
we have a self-consumed, evil nature
- Our evil world: (Ro 12:17ff; Heb 12:15)
we've been sinned against and bitterness is contagious
- Our wicked enemy: (Eph 4:26f)
bitterness is one of Satan's most effective weapons

1. Put off the Old Self (v31)

(definitions by Peter T. O'Brien, Ephesians, PNTC)

- Bitterness: a state of sharp, intense, resentment or hate
- Wrath: indignant outburst of rage
- Anger: steady festering, seething anger
- Clamor: shouting back & forth in a quarrel
- Slander: abusive speech; vilifying by lies or gossip
- Malice: attitude of wickedness, ill-will

2. Put on the New Self (v32)

(definitions by Peter T. O'Brien, Ephesians, PNTC)

- be Kind to one another:
as our heavenly Father is kind to sinners & His people
- be Tenderhearted: sympathetic to one another's needs
- Forgive one another: a rich, gracious & unceasing forgiveness

3. Some Principles of Forgiveness

- Christ loved us & gave Himself up for us: (Eph 5:1-2)
be inspired by His love & glory (see also Eph 1 – 3)
- Forgive thru a Spirit-empowered choice: (1Jn 2:4-5; 4:12)
our hearts change as we obey
- Forgive by faith: trusting God to heal, protect & sustain us (Mt 5:1ff)
- Experience the joy & freedom of forgiveness: (Ro 6:16)
rather than the bondage of bitterness or other people's actions
- See & long for the glorious fruit of Christ's love: (Jn 17:20ff)
forgiveness flows, the church is united, & the gospel spreads