

## Lesson 4: Forbearing and Forgiving

1. Read **Colossians 3:12-13**.
  
2. Define forbearance.
  
3. Describe situations when forbearance is required:
  - a. **Romans 15:1** -
  
  - b. **Galatians 6:2** -
  
  - c. **II Corinthians 6:3-6** (see vs. 6) -
  
  - d. **Ephesians 4:1-3** -
  
4. Define forgiveness.
  
5. What (who) is our pattern? (**Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32**) How does this motivate us?
  
6. What depends upon it? (**Matthew 18:35; Matthew 6:12, 14-16; Mark 11:25-26**)
  
7. How often must we do it? (**Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4**)

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8. Read **Matthew 18:23-34** - The Unforgiving Servant.

- a. What did the master require of the servant in order to forgive him?
- b. What motivated the master to forgive the enormous debt?
- c. Was the servant required to demonstrate a “change of character” first?

9. Read **Luke 16:11-32** - The Prodigal Son.

- a. What was the father’s attitude towards his son during his rebellion?
- b. What was required of the son by his father for him to obtain forgiveness?
- c. What was the emotional reaction of the father to his son’s repentance?
- d. What additional penalties did the father impose?

10. Read **Luke 7:36-48** - The Sinful Woman at Simon’s house.

- a. What sins was the woman probably guilty of?
- b. What conditions did Jesus place on her forgiveness?
- c. What did Jesus say the forgiveness would produce in the debtor (& woman)?

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11. Explain how the qualities listed in **Colossians 3:12** enable forbearing and forgiving.

- a. Tender mercies -
- b. Kindness -
- c. Humility -
- d. Meekness -
- e. Longsuffering -

12. What opposite characteristics are listed in **Ephesians 4:31**?

13. What opposite behavior are we tempted to pursue (**Romans 12:17-21**)?

### Application Questions

1. How would you distinguish between forbearing and forgiving? When is each required? For the list below, choose which is required. Your spouse . . .
  - a. Is too short and that inconveniences you
  - b. Lies to you over a minor matter
  - c. Has a habit that annoys you
  - d. Continues an annoying habit after you ask them to stop

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- e. Accidentally loses a large amount of money
  - f. Disagrees with you that he/she has done anything wrong
2. Why is it so difficult to have the proper emotions (joy) when someone repents of a wrong done to us and asks forgiveness?
  3. Is it always difficult? When is it not?
  4. What are some “counterfeits” of forgiveness? (see for example **James 3:14, 17**)
  5. In practical terms, what should be different about our behavior toward someone who has wronged us before and after they repent?
  6. What is to be the treatment of those who take advantage of us (**Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:35-36**)? Would this responsibility intensify if they are closely related and/or we have a special opportunity to use that relationship to influence them for good?
  7. What qualities and exercises can help us develop our ability to forgive as God does?