

The Sweetness of Forgiveness – Part 2

Philemon 19-25

Introduction:

1. *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”*
Colossians 3:13-14
2. Paul desired for the situation between Philemon and Onesimus to be a living display of these verses to that local congregation.
3. Why should Philemon forgive Onesimus? Why should **we** forgive those who have wronged us? The conclusion of this letter provides the answer.

Forgiveness brings _____ of mind. vs. 19

Forgiveness produces _____. vs. 20a

Forgiveness is a testimony to _____. vs. 20b, 23-25

1. Our forgiveness (or lack thereof) has a direct affect on others who are _____ us.
2. A believer may say, “But he was wrong and I was right.” As a Christian we must understand that there are times when being **right** isn't what _____ the most.
3. Our lives should make the _____ of Christ look attractive. One of the ways that we do this is by our love and unity, and lack of contention. Philippians 1:27; John 13:35

Forgiveness brings _____. vs. 21

1. Paul assumed that there would be quarrels in the local church.
Colossians 3:13
2. The question is not whether there will be quarrels; the question is how you will _____ when the quarrels come.
3. Paul gives us some clear cut commands on how to respond. You can summarize it in two action verbs: forbear and forgive.
 - “Forbear” literally means, “to _____ up with.”
 - There are times when you just put up with people's actions, and you simply apply _____ and go on.
 - Then there are times when the offence really stings, and you can't just blow it off and forbear. You have to intentionally face the _____ and apply Christ-like forgiveness.
4. A believer cannot harbor bitterness and anger and be right with God. Unforgiveness gives place to the _____. 2 Corinthians 2:8-11

Forgiveness enhances our _____ lives. vs. 22

- Bitterness will always _____ your prayer life. When you are hanging on to grudges and full of bitterness, you don't feel like praying.

In Conclusion:

1. A person may say, “Why should I forgive and let them off the hook?”
2. Do you know what the reality is? When you refuse to forgive, who is on the hook? _____ are!
3. When you choose to forgive, you are letting them off **your** hook. This means you are _____! The sweetness of forgiveness is that it sets you free.