

**Forgive One Another**  
**3-1-20 PM**

*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*  
Ephesians 4:32

*Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*  
Colossians 3:13

What is found in the command to forgive one another? In these passages we see the following: How do we handle “withdrawal”? The passages tell us the following: (1) Be kind to one another, (2) Be tender-hearted to one another, (3) Forgiving each other, and (4) Bearing with one another. In each case it needs to be applied that this is done “Just as God in Christ also has forgiven you”.

(1) Be kind to one another - Kindness is commanded in places like Colossians 3:12, Galatians 5:22. We see terms like merciful, gentle, good, or without malice, or bad will. These are things we do in words and deeds.

(2) Be tender-hearted to one another. We are to be compassionate and full of pity per 1 Peter 3:8. This means being sympathetic and empathetic, just as God in Christ was to you.

(3) Forgiving each other. Forgiveness refers to permitting a debt to be unpaid (Mark 11:25). It means passing on the desire for repayment or for punishment, again just as God in Christ did to you.

(4) Bearing with one another. We need to exercise patience (Romans 15:1, Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:13). This means we are dwelling with understanding and making allowances for conduct. We do this just as God in Christ also IS STILL doing for you

There is a terrible problem of holding grudges mentioned in Matthew 18:21-35. We need to be honest and admit that sometimes we are not forgiving. You Are Not Forgiving If:

- 1) Use what a person said or did as conversation
  - Something you need to tell others
  - To “understand” your feelings  
(To side with you!)
- 2) Daydream about getting some kind of justice
  - Dwelling on the desire to right a wrong
  - If you forgave them, you gave desire that up
- 3) Occupy your time either reliving or dwelling on the situation or the person’s behaviors
  - Always thinking about what “they” did
  - Returning to the events which hurt
- 4) Annoyed by the very mention of the person
  - Getting upset over positive comments
  - Wanting others not to like them
- 5) Have a tendency to avoid the person

- Making an effort not to talk to them
- Avoiding them

6) Secretly delighted to hear about their difficulties

- Reveling in their failures

7) Seeing yourself as a victim

People Who Don't Forgive struggle with anger. They behave pettily and impulsively and are unable to take responsibility for feelings. Many times they are sick or hurting and actually don't like themselves. They struggle with gossip and other sins. It is no way to live!