

Sunday, May 30, 2021—Colossians 3:13 Forgiveness: Who, What, When, Why, & How

Colossians 3:13

- **Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.**
- Last week we studied the first half of this verse as we really dug into to understanding the issues of forbearing and forgiving. This morning we want to look at the practical application of putting on forbearance and forgiveness.
- **if any man have a quarrel against any**—the verb “have” following the condition “if” is in the subjunctive mood which means we are dealing with a maybe/maybe not scenario here.
- This is the only time the word rendered “quarrel” appears in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible. The English noun “[quarrel](#)” carries many meanings according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*.
 - Mark 6:18-19
- Colossians 3:13—notice how opened ended Paul’s statement is in his verse. There is no situation or circumstance that this statement would not apply to.
 - **If any man have a quarrel**—applies to “any” member of the body of Christ, no one is excluded.
 - **Against any**—applies to “any” person with whom one might a “quarrel.” There are not contingencies or out clauses.
- **even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye**—our forgiveness of others is based upon the fact the Christ forgave us. The word “forgave” is past tense. God the Father has already totally forgiven us on the basis of the blood of Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:7—“In whom we have. . . the forgiveness of sins. . .”
 - Colossians 1:14—“In whom we have . . . even the forgiveness of sins.”
 - Colossians 2:13—“. . . having forgiven you all trespasses.”
- Ephesians 4:32—as members of the body of Christ, our forgiveness is not conditional. We are instructed to forgive because we have already been forgiven. We are not instructed to forgive so that we can be forgiven.
 - Matthew 6:12-15

- Mark 11:25-26
- Luke 6:37
- These verses highlight why it is imperative to rightly divide the word of truth. God’s instructions to Israel living under the Law concerning forgiveness are the opposite of what Paul is teaching the body of Christ concerning the matter.
- Ephesians 4:32—if God on account of the work of his Son is no longer holding our sins against us who are we to hold other people’s sins against them. Once again, we are to be reflective of Christ. We forgive in the person of Christ:
 - II Corinthians 2:10
- Ephesians 4:31—the opposite of “forgiving one another” is to harbor resentment and bitterness which will bring you under the bondage of your “old man” (v. 22) and not the liberty of the “new man” (v. 24).
 - Unforgiveness is the root of bitterness! We become bitter and we have resentment when we do not forgive! The vices of the flesh: wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking, and malice manifest themselves. Unforgiveness produces depression that leads to physical illness! Unforgiveness divides—families, communities, cultures, and churches.
- II Corinthians 2:7—forgiving others sets them free.
- II Corinthians 2:10-11—when we do not forgive, we give the adversary an advantage in our lives.
- Romans 12:17-21—forgiving someone doesn’t mean that you put yourself in a position to allow that person to continually injure, hurt, or abuse you. There will be people that you cannot live peaceably with.
 - Don’t confusing forgiveness with reconciliation.
- Philippians 3:13—we need to learn to forgive ourselves. We need to grasp who we are in Christ and come to terms with how God sees us. We need to stop walking around with guilt and shame over our past failures. We need to not let our past mistakes keep us from doing the will of God from the heart.