

SERMON-BASED STUDY: FORBEARANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Exodus 34:5-7, ESV – ⁵ *The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.* ⁶ *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,* ⁷ *keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”*

Ephesians 4:31-32, ESV – ³¹ *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* ³² *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Colossians 3:12-13, ESV – ¹² *Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,* ¹³ *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week, we were reminded that God is ready and willing to forgive. Why is God always ready and willing to forgive? How does this reminder serve as assurance for those who follow God?

2 How is mercy and grace connected with forgiveness?

3 Why does God want us to forgive as He forgives? How can followers of God live in a state of readiness and willingness to forgive?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **1 John 1:8-9, ESV** – ⁸ *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

2 Peter 3:9, ESV – ⁹ *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

4 According to 1 John 1:8-9, everyone has sin. So, why would someone think they have no sin or that their sin is not serious?

5 Define forgiveness. Define confession. Define repentance. What is the relationship between forgiveness, confession and repentance?

6 Why is God patient with us? How does it make you feel knowing that He is patient with you? How should this affect the way we deal with other people?

B **Matthew 5:43-45, ESV** – ⁴³ *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’* ⁴⁴ *But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* ⁴⁵ *so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

7 Where might the phrase “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy” come from? Who were the enemies of the Jews at this time? Why might they feel justified in hating them?

8 Why is it not natural to love one's enemies? How does prayer help to change one's attitude toward their enemies?

9 Define forbearance. How is forbearance related to loving one's enemy? What are some practical ways we can show love to our enemies?

TAKING IT HOME

Forbearance and forgiveness are critical elements of our relationship with God and with others. How has God shown you forbearance and forgiveness? How have you reflected these same characteristics toward others? How have you not reflected these same characteristics toward others? Is there someone that God is bringing to mind that you need to show more love and less hatred? What practical steps will you take this week to show more love toward that person? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to be people of forbearance and forgiveness.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Isaiah 40:31

Matthew 9:36

Luke 6:35

1 John 3:18