

SHOWING FORBEARANCE TO ONE ANOTHER - Eph 4:1-3

INTRODUCTION

1. How can we manage to live together as a church? Forbearance & forgiveness. Apply the gospel in our relationships.
2. Mt 5:9. Eph 4:1-3.

1st: The Call to Forebear With One Another (v1)

1. An apostolic entreaty: *implore, urge, entreat* - Paraclete: affectionate desire for our good. Paul exemplifies that to wh/ he entreats in us.
2. A *worthy walk*: *walk* = pattern of living; *worthy* economic term = balance scales: our walk shld have equivalence w/ our *calling* - *called* [2x].
 - i. *calling* of the *called* = "effectual calling" = regeneration [R 4:17]
 - ii. To what are we called? *Follow Me* - discipleship.

2nd: The Character Needed to Forebear With One Another (v2)

1. Disposition of humility: one's view of one's self viewed in grace.
 - i. Phil 2:1-5 - *in X* - *humility of mind* - opposite of *selfishness & empty conceit* - self-promoting
 - ii. *regard*: evaluate others as *more important than self*; assume role of *servant* = the disposition of Jesus (v5ff).
 - iii. Eph 4:2 all humility - partial humility -> total hypocrisy.
 - iv. Displaces personal interests w/ interests of the church.
2. Disposition of gentleness: strength used to meet needs of other 2Th 2:5-8
3. Practice of patience (Eph 4:2): long + passion = elongated zeal. Patience is not apathy, but passionate concern wh/ factors in God's grace.
 - i. 1Thes 5:14 patience is not noninvolvement - Lord uses means: us!
 - ii. 2T 2:22-26 *kind to all & patient when wronged*: not retaliating when mistreated - overlap w/ forgiving.
4. Motivated by love (Eph 4:2): love is theological [1Jn 4:8]; love is gospel [1Jn 4:10]; love seeks holiness of the beloved [Eph 5:25ff].
 - i. Love & the # 13: R 13:8-10 - substance of moral righteousness; 1C 13:4-8 - manner of grace; Jn 13:24-25 - self sacrificial
 - ii. *fervently love one another from the heart* [1Pt 1:22-23] - Love is exp'd w/ emotion & seen in gospel-defined acts [1C 16:13-14].

3rd: The Conduct Of Forbearance (v2&3)

1. *Showing forbearance*: "to put up w/ someone" - overlook thgs that wld otherwise occasion conflict - personal annoyances & preferences
 - i. *Forbearance* - difficult people; *perseverance* - difficult circumstances.
 - ii. Mt 17:17 Jesus had to forebear - holy frustration?
 - iii. 1Pt 4:7-8 *love covers multitude of sins* "blanket of love" Mt 18:21-22
2. *Diligent to preserve the unity* - urgently: be quick to act - don't allow the offense to fester; it'll become infection - *bitterness* - *defiles* [Heb 12:15]
 - i. We do not manufacture our unity - it is given to us in gospel
 - ii. *Unity* = oneness [Jn 17:20-23]
 - iii. *preserve*: to guard, protect, maintain
 - iv. *of the Spirit*: common life in HS [1 C 12:12-14]
 - v. *in the bond*: medical term: ligaments; *of peace* - Eph 2:13-16 Jesus Himself is our peace. We give each other His peace w/ words & acts.

Applic #1: We must translate our affection for & allegiance to Christ into forbearance of Christians.

1. Mt 10:40 our love of Christ is seen in our relationship w/ Christians - Mt 25:40; 1Jn 4:20-5:2
2. Ever wonder about the people Jesus decides to save? 1C 1:26-29. Ever wonder that He saved you?
 - i. Jms 3:2 [KJV] *in many things we all offend* - we need blanket of love
3. Jesus' name is at stake: worship - Rom 15:5-7
 - i. likemindedness *according to Christ Jesus*
 - ii. Why? v6 - for sake of worship.
 - iii. How? -v7 *just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God*.
 - iv. John Newton - Hymn #142
4. May we experience being accepted by Jesus & accept each other as He accepts us.