

Colossians 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Analysis

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. Paul focuses on relational dynamics within Christian community. "Forbearing" (anéchomenoi, ἀνεχόμενοι, bearing with, tolerating) recognizes that believers will annoy and disappoint each other. "Forgiving" (charizomenoi, χαρίζομενοι, graciously releasing) uses the grace-word group—forgiveness as grace, not debt repayment.

"If any man have a quarrel" (ean tis pros tina echē momphēn, εἴαν τις πρὸς τινα ἔχη μομφήν) acknowledges real conflicts will arise. The standard: "even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (kathōs kai ho Kyrios echaris ato hymin, houtōs kai hymeis, καθὼς καὶ ὁ Κύριος ἐχαρίσατο ὑμῖν, οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς). Christ's forgiveness—undeserved, complete, costly—models believers' forgiveness. Those forgiven much must forgive others (Matthew 18:23-35). Refusing forgiveness denies grace's reality.

Historical Context

Ancient honor-shame cultures required defending reputation and avenging wrongs. Forgiveness was weakness; vengeance proved strength. Jesus's and Paul's teaching on forgiveness was radically countercultural, requiring supernatural grace to implement. Early Christian communities' ability to maintain unity through mutual forbearance and forgiveness testified powerfully to gospel transformation,

creating functional communities where Roman society featured constant rivalry and factional conflict.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Who do you need to forbear with and forgive, and what prevents you from extending grace?
2. How does meditating on Christ's forgiveness of you enable forgiving others who've wronged you?
3. What unresolved conflicts or unforgiveness currently hinder your Christian relationships and church unity?

Interlinear Text

ἀνεχόμενοι	ἀλλήλων	καὶ	ἐχαρίσατο	ἐαυτοῖς	ἐάν	τινα
Forbearing	one another	also	forgave	one another	if	any
G430	G240	G2532	G5483	G1438	G1437	G5100

πρός	τινα	ἔχη	μομφήν·	καθὼς	καὶ	ὁ	Χριστὸς
against	any	have	a quarrel	even as	also	G3588	Christ
G4314	G5100	G2192	G3437	G2531	G2532		G5547

ἐχαρίσατο	ὕμῖν	οὕτως	καὶ	ὕμεῖς·
forgave	you	so	also	do ye
G5483	G5213	G3779	G2532	G5210

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 4:32 (References Christ): And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Mark 11:25 (Parallel theme): And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

James 2:13 (Parallel theme): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Ephesians 4:2 (Parallel theme): With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Matthew 6:12 (Parallel theme): And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

2 Corinthians 6:6 (Parallel theme): By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

2 Corinthians 2:10 (References Christ): To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

Luke 23:34 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Galatians 6:2 (References Christ): Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Luke 11:4 (Parallel theme): And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.