

# 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" (anechomenoi, ἀνεχόμενοι, bearing with, tolerating) recognizes that believers will annoy and disappoint each other. "Forgiving" (charizomenoi, χαριζόμενοι, 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, ἐάν τις πρός τινα ἔχῃ 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 hymēis, 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

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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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

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

ἐχαρίσατο ὑμῖν οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς·  
forgave you so also do ye  
G5483 G5213 G3779 G2532 G5210

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.