

Resolving Conflict: Week 5 - Loving Forbearance

“Showing Tolerance” - *to regard with tolerance, to endure, to put up with.*

- *“When used in conjunction with people, it means ‘to have patience with in regard to the errors or weaknesses of anyone.’”¹*
- *“In other words, differences between believers are to be tolerated.”²*
- *“Each of these descriptions involve an element of self-denial and self-restraint: humility involves considering others ahead of ourselves; gentleness is a disposition that resists self-importance and proffers courtesy toward others; patience resists immediate self-gratification and provocation;¹² and bearing with one another in love involves care for the interests of others even if they may bother or upset us.”³*

7 Descriptions of Loving Forbearance

1. Forbearance is the ability to recognize and appreciate the fact that God has made each person different. (1 Cor. 4:7; Job 31:15; Ps. 119:73; Psalm 139:13-16)

- *“Indeed, this man of God understood that to which many have born testimony, that God knows us infinitely better than we know ourselves, since He has sovereignly overseen the framing of our personalities and potentialities.”⁴*

2. Forbearance is the ability to distinguish sin issues from nonsin issues

- *“When you judge things to be sinful that are not clearly delineated as such (at least in principle) in the Scriptures, you wrongly judge not only your brother who did the misjudged deed, but also the Bible for not condemning the deed, and the Author of the Bible, who apparently forgot to include it in Holy Writ. Think of how grave a matter it is to make such a presumptuous accusation against God.”⁵*

¹ Lou Priolo, *Resolving Conflict: How to Make, Disturb, and Keep Peace* (P & R Publishing, 2016)., p. 91.

² Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary*, 6. print (Baker Academic, 2009)., p. 509.

³ Campbell, Constantine R. 2023. [The Letter to the Ephesians](#). Edited by D. A. Carson. Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

⁴ George J. Zemek, *The Word of God in the Child of God: Exegetical, Theological and Homiletical Reflections from the 119th Psalm* (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2005)., p. 196.

⁵ Priolo, *Resolving Conflict*., p. 93.

3. **Forbearance is a willingness to allow others the freedom to develop and express their own unique lifestyles within the framework of Scripture without passing judgment on them or holding them in contempt.**
 - *"We each have our own style or way of living life – a 'bundle of behaviors,' if you please, that sets us apart and distinguishes us from those around us. Some lifestyles are inherently unbiblical, such as the lifestyle of sexual immorality or hedonism. Others are acceptable within the context of Scripture. A forbearing individual does not make moral judgments of individuals whose lifestyles are not clearly delineated as sinful in the Scriptures."*⁶
4. **Forbearance is the ability in close relationships to distinguish swing issues from fire issues**
5. **Forbearance is the ability to put up with idiosyncratic swing issues that you wish were different in another person and to sacrifice your own desires for his benefit (Philippians 2:3ff;**
6. **Forbearance is the ability to respond lovingly to the immaturity of others without lowering ourselves to their standard of immaturity**
 - *"When he observes immaturity in others, he desires to help them grow rather than to condemn them for not yet 'growing up' into his own 'exalted, glorious spiritual state.'"*⁷
7. **Forbearance is the ability to demonstrate biblical love to other believers even when they are struggling with sin**

⁶ Priolo, *Resolving Conflict.*, p. 94.

⁷ Lou Priolo, *Resolving Conflict: How to Make, Disturb, and Keep Peace* (P & R Publishing, 2016)., p. 103.