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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## BE FORGIVING

Philemon 1:10-21

Be Loving and  
Forgiving  
*A Study of Philemon*

Date	Lesson	Text
03/14	Loving	1:4-9
03/21	Forgiving	1:10-21
03/28	Summary & Review	

### Food for Thought

#### Grace To Forgive

Ground that is filled with roots of bitterness needs to be plowed by the grace of God.

When others we will not forgive, God's blessings are denied; We must forsake our stubbornness And banish sinful pride.

*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

**Matt 5:44** (NIV)

*(From "Our Daily Bread" Mar 26, 2005)*

The lesson before us is a difficult one. The difficulty is not in the area of understanding. We all know what the lesson says. **The problem is in putting the command found here into practice. It is not easy to treat others the same way God has dealt with us in Christ. God has treated the believer with unconditional love.** He has forgiven the Christian with no strings attached. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). **God calls His children to treat each other in the same way. He tells us our relationships must be marked by this kind of tenderness and willingness to forgive.** Jesus' remarks in Luke 17:3-4 are instructive: "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." There is no question about it. God expects believers to be marked by a readiness to forgive. Our problem is that we are like Peter: we want to know how many times we should be willing to forgive someone (cf. Matt. 18:21). We want to keep a record and hold our brother's feet to the fire when he offends us. **What can we do to break free from such a self-centered approach to relationships?**

**First, we must understand how an unforgiving spirit affects our testimony.** John addressed this issue when he asserted, "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes" (I John 2:9-11). An unforgiving spirit nullifies our testimony. It lets others know that we do not understand the forgiveness that is offered to us in Jesus Christ. **Second, we must remember that our example is God.** We are not to compare ourselves with each other. We are not to base our actions on how others treat us. God is to be the standard we measure ourselves against. Paul stated the command for us in Colossians 3:12-13: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." We have not been called to merely put up with people; we have been commanded to treat them with kindness and tenderness. These are attitudes that are focused on meeting the needs of others and not our own selfish desires. Much strife in the church could be avoided if professing Christians would follow Christ's example. It is hard to quarrel and bicker with someone you stand ready to forgive. **We must constantly remind ourselves that we stand in the grace of God. This should cause us to treat others with the same graciousness and kindness.**

*(Excerpt from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **BE LOVING - CONT. (1:1-9)**

#### **Share our faith (vs 6)**

*By supplying the needs of God's people (2 Corinthians 9:12-14)*

*By helping others (Hebrews 6:10)*

*By doing deeds out of faith (James 2:14)*

*By letting our light shine before others (Matt 5:16)*

*By living such a good life that others will glorify God (1 Peter 2:12)*

*By always being prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have (1 Peter 3:15-16)*

#### **Refresh the hearts of others (vs 7)**

*By providing encouragement (2 Cor 7:13)*

*By supplying their needs (1 Cor 16:17-18)*

*By being together with saints in service (Rom 15:31-32)*

### **BE FORGIVING (1:10-21)**

*Think of others as useful versus useless (vs 11)*

Because a man's fruit will display their usefulness (Luke 6:43-45)

Because those who devote themselves to doing good are useful (Titus 3:8)

Because God is the only one who can decide who is useful, and all are useful to God whether for honor or dishonor (2 Tim 2:20-21)

Because we are to be considerate of all to stir up love and good works (Heb 10:24)

Because what God has created is good and useful (Acts 10:11-15)

Because all Christians are people of God (1 Peter 2:10)

*Be spontaneous and earnest (vs 14)*

By doing and giving with honor and integrity (1 Chron 29:17)

By doing things voluntarily (1 Cor 9:17)

By being willing (2 Cor 8:12)

By being eager to serve (1 Peter 5:2)

By doing and giving what has been decided on in our hearts not reluctantly or under compulsion (2 Cor 9:7)

By serving faithfully (1 Peter 4:10)

*If you must separate, come back together (vs 15)*

So that there will not be an overwhelming of sorrow (2 Cor 2:5-8)

So that God can do His work (Rom 12:19)

So that the sun does not go down on anger (Eph 4:26)

So that we will live a righteous life that God desires (James 1:19-20)

*Treat as a brother in Christ (vs 16)*

By recognizing fellow workers and partners in the work of God (2 Cor 8:23)

By loving as brothers (Heb 13:1)

By not slandering, judging or speaking against others (James 4:11)

By living in harmony with one another (1 Peter 3:8)

By being willing to lay down our lives for a brother (1 John 3:16-18)

*Do not charge wrongs to others (vs 18)*

Because the same measure of judgment will be used against us (Matt 18:28-34)

Because our cry for help may not be answered (Prov 21:13)

Because our adversary may have us judged (Luke 12:58)

Because we need to ensure we are right before charging others (Matt 7:3-5)

*Be obedient to God's word in forgiving (vs 21)*

So that we will stand the test of obedience (2 Cor 2:9-10)

So that we won't need to feel ashamed (2 Thess 3:14)

Because God forgave us (Col 3:13)

By being kind and compassionate to others (Eph 4:32)