

SERMON SERIES: **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **Better Fellowship 5**

TEXTS: **Eph 4:1-3; Col 3:12-13**

MESSAGE INTRO: *One of last Sunday's one-another "samplers" was to "bear one another's burdens." Now we turn our attention to "bearing _____ one another" and "forgiving one another"—both are essential to fellowship!*

1. BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER—Eph 4:2; Col 3:13

ἀνέχω (*anechoo*) = to forbear, bear with, _____, tolerate, _____ up _____.

A. It takes patience and _____ (Jam 1:19; Eph 4:1-2; Col 3:12; Rom 12:17-21; 1 Pet 3:8-9; Mat 5:38-39; Prov 15:1)

1) *Be "slow to speak"—Don't re _____ or re _____*

2) *Be "slow to anger"—Don't be _____-sensitive or _____ offended.*

B. It takes _____ (1 Pet 4:8; 1 Cor 13:5; Col 3:12-14)

C. It takes _____ (Eph 4:1-3, 29-32; 1 Th 5:13b-15; Col 3:7-15; 4:5-6; 1 Pet 3:8-9; James 1:19)

So, make it _____ for others to _____ with _____!

D. Bearing with one another is a _____ measure to keep fellowship intact. But when one has sinned against another, you will need a _____ measure.

2. FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER—Eph 4:32; Col 3:13

χαρίζομαι (*karidzomai*) = To _____ forgiveness; _____ that pardons or cancels a debt.

A. When you are the offend _____: (Lk 17:3-4; Mat 18:15-17)

1) _____ quickly, _____ what you can to fix it.

2) *Even if the other doesn't _____, you _____ it _____! (Col 3:13; Eph 4:32; Rom 12:18; Lk 23:34)*

3) _____ your _____ with every prayer! (Mark 11:25; Mat 6:12, 14-15)

B. When you are the offend _____: (Mat 5:21-26; Eph 4:26-27)

1) _____ quickly, _____ what you can to fix it.

2) *Even if the other doesn't _____ you, do what you can to _____ your repentance.*

C. The connection between forgiveness and fellowship

1) *Sin impedes fellowship; forgiveness _____ it!*

2) *More than that, forgiveness is _____ fellowship—that is its purpose!*

FORGIVENESS → RECONCILIATION → FELLOWSHIP

3) *Forgiveness doesn't always lead to fellowship because, again, _____ takes _____! (Rom 12:18)*

MESSAGE PLEA: Church, let's keep and protect and improve our fellowship! Through forbearance and forgiveness, let's be "Eager to _____ the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph 4:3)