

FORGIVING AS WE ARE FORGIVEN

Eph. 4:31,32

Here is the last of five sets of commands for our “new self” in Christ. Pattern = 1) negative, 2) positive, 3) rationale for obeying

A couple of safe assumptions here in view of 25,32.

Some NT examples: Matt. 18:15-35, Lk. 17:3,4, I Cor. 6:1, Phil. 2:2,3.

Avoid resentful attitudes and words. 31 (negative)

- ◆ Rather than respond in a kind and forgiving way to a perception of mistreatment, one may be tempted to respond in these ways:
1) *bitterness* 2) *wrath* 3) *anger* 4) *clamor* 5) *slander*
... *with malice* (ill will) which taints all of the above
- ◆ Which of these might you be most prone to do? Ask spouse!
Which might be most likely to occur in a local church body?

Seek to be kind and forgiving. 32a (positive)

- ◆ *Kind* = pleasant, easy going, 2:7, see in Matt. 11:30, Lk. 6:35.
- ◆ *Tenderhearted* = compassionate, I Pt. 3:8.
- ◆ *Forgiving* (lit. being gracious) = granting others undeserved favor, including pardoning them, see usage in Col. 3:13.

We have experienced God's kindness & forgiveness. 32b (rationale)

- ◆ The reason we must forgive is because of God graciousness and forgiveness of us, Eph. 1:7, 2:1-7. Recall Matt. 18:21-35.
- ◆ No mention of a need for repenting (Lk. 17:3,4) or the cost of not forgiving, Matt. 6:14,15, 18:32-35, Mk. 11:25, I Jn. 4:20.



What can sure help us to be more able to forgive others?