

# FORBEARANCE & LONGSUFFERING

## FAMILY AND MINISTRY: LESSONS AT HOME PART VII

*"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering,  
forbearing one another in love"*

*~ Ephesians 4:2*

### 1. Lesson You Should Be Learning at Home: Forbearance & Longsuffering

- a. Prior lessons useful without ceasing: love, conversation, joy, 'disciplining', thanks, godliness
- b. Following lessons needed for when things go wrong, when problems arise.
  - i. Repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, comfort, rebuke, separation, fornication
- c. A prevailing myth is that families should be perfect: friction = family failure ← wrong.
- d. Marriages not intended for perfect people; angels don't have families (*as far as I know*)
- e. You are not in competition with other marriages/families → 2 Cor 10:12
- f. Family does not hinder your service to God, they are your service.
- g. Marriage & family are designed to teach us to love as God loves. Christ helps. Rom 5:8
- h. Love is not giving people what they want, love is grace, forbearance, and longsuffering.

### 2. Defining Terms

- a. Forbear ~def. To be patient, endure; slow to anger; restraint; to hold back; to be silent
- b. Meekness ~def. Soft temper; resignation; humility; forbearing injuries and provocations
- c. Temperance ~def. Moderation of passion; in control and disciplined; Phi 4:5
- d. Patience ~def. Endurance without murmuring; persistence; not hasty; contently waiting.
- e. Longsuffering ~def. Bearing injuries and provocation for a long time.
- f. These are often misinterpreted by others:
  - i. Longsuffering misinterpreted as apathy or powerlessness – Rom 2:4, 9:22
  - ii. Meekness misinterpreted as weakness; patience as lacking zeal; temperance as legalism or formalism; bearing another's burdens digging your own hole.
- g. This is charity → 1 Cor 4:21, 13:4-6; these are the fruit of the Spirit - Gal 5:22-26
- h. These things are not against boldness, zeal, preaching, responsibility, judging
- i. It means not exerting yourself, but the truth of Christ – 1Tim 6:11-12, 2Tim 4:2
- j. It means no over-reaction, defensiveness, quick anger, lose control, high minded, selfish

### 3. Grace Teaches Forbearance

- a. Forbearance is what Christ did on the cross, it is what God does even today.
- b. Grace teaches us these things due to faith and the body of Christ – Rom 12:3-5, Titus 3
- c. The dispensation of grace is the pattern of longsuffering – Rom 3:25, 1Ti 1:16, 2Pe 3:15
- d. Bear another's burdens = the law of Christ - Gal 6:1-3
- e. Putting on Christ means putting on these things - Col 3:12-13, Eph 4:1-4
- f. Where do you find the strength? Inner man strength - Phi 4:13, Eph 3:16, Rom 6:6-13
  - i. The strength of Christ responds to problems that make us weak in the inner man

### 4. Forbearance at Home

- a. Marriage and family put you in a required situation to bear each other's burdens.
- b. It is no surprise that family life is called settling down or is said to clean up your act.
- c. Patience is required while you are talking to, working with, waiting for another to grow.
- d. How long do you have to "suffer" these things? A long time, a life long time.
- e. Want to have godly homes? Want to lead well? Want a home filled with love and peace?