

August 30, 2015

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE WHO FORGIVES
PHILEMON 4-7**

The Problem That Results When We Withhold Forgiveness

- We allow our past to **imprison** us. Eph. 4:32; Phil. 3:13; Luke 4:18-20
- We allow **bitterness** to be produced within us. Heb. 12:15; Eph. 4:31; James 3:14; 1 Sam. 18:6-30, 19:1-10, 20:1-33; Luke 15:25-32
- We allow **Satan** a door of opportunity within our lives. Eph. 4:26-27; 2 Cor. 2:10-11; Rom. 13:8
- We allow our **fellowship** with God to be hindered. 1 John 1:9; Matt. 6:14-15, 18:21-22

The Characteristics of One Who Forgives (vs 4-7)

- We have **faith** in Christ that is unwavering. (vs 4-5); Eph. 4:32; 1 John 4:4; Phil. 4:13; Rom. 8:31-37; Matt. 6:14; 1 Cor. 6:19-20
- We have a **love** for Christ and for one another. (vs 5-7); Gal. 5:22; 1 Thess. 4:9; Rom. 5:5; 1 John 3:14; 1 Pet. 3:1-9; Eph. 5:25-30, 6:1-4; Jam. 5:20; 1 Pet. 4:18
- We understand the sense of **belonging** to each other. (v 6); Eph. 4:32; Acts 2:42; Matt. 18:5-18; John 17:21-23
- We know what to do and are **willing** to do it. (v 6); Eph. 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:32, 4:12-13; Matt. 18:21-22
- We want to **honor** and glorify Christ. (v 6); 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11; Matt. 6:14
- We want to seek to be **peacemakers**. (v 7); Gal. 6:1-2; Rom. 12:10-18; Matt. 5:9

Application

- Where are you in the **characteristic** of one who forgives?
- Where do you **want** to be?
- Are you **ready** to be the one who forgives?

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.
Mahatma Gandhi

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Forgiveness is not always easy. At times, it feels more painful than the wound we suffered, to forgive the one that inflicted it. And yet, there is no peace without forgiveness.

Marianne Williamson

Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning.
Desmond Tutu