

**NEXT STEP WITH GOD: FORGIVENESS  
PHILEMON 1-7**

**The problem that results when we withhold forgiveness.**  
**Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; Matt. 18:21-22**

- We are allowing our **past** to imprison us. Eph. 4:32; Phil. 3:13; Luke 15:25-32; Gen. 50:20; 1 Sam. 17-18
- We are allowing bitterness to take **root** in our lives. Heb. 12:14-15; Eph. 4:31; James 3:14; 1 Sam. 17-18; Luke 15:25-32
- We are allowing Satan a **door** of opportunity within our lives. Eph. 4:26-27; 2 Cor. 2:10-11; Rom. 13:8; Gen. 3:1-7; John 8:44
- We are allowing our fellowship with **God** to be hindered. 1 John 1:9; Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-22; Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:13

**The characteristics of one who forgives. Philem. 4-7**

- Has **faith** in Christ that is unwavering. Philem. 4-5; Eph. 4:32; 1 John 4:4; Phil. 4:13; Rom. 8:31-37; Matt. 6:14
- Has a **love** for Christ and for believers. Philem. 6-7; Gal. 5:22; 1 Thess. 4:9; 2:7-13; Gal. 5:6; Rom. 5:5; 1 John 3:14; John 13:34-35
- Understands the sense of belonging to **each** other. Philem. 6; Eph. 4:32; Acts 2:42; 2 Cor. 8:4; Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Thess. 2:7-13
- Knows what to do and is **willing** to do it. Philem. 6; Eph. 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:20-32; 4:12-13; Matt. 18:21-22
- Wants to **honor** and glorify Christ. Philem. 6; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11
- Seeks to be a **peacemaker**. Philem. 7; Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:10-18

**Moving forward in our forgiveness.**

- Determine when you are in the character of **one** who forgives.
- Ask yourself **where** you want to be.
- Are you **ready** to be the one that forgives?

"We win by tenderness. We conquer by forgiveness."  
Frederick W. Robertson

"A Christian will find it cheaper to pardon than to resent. Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits."  
Hannah More

"God's grace and forgiveness, while free to the recipient, are always costly for the giver. From the earliest parts of the Bible, it was understood that God could not forgive without sacrifice. No one who is seriously wronged can 'just forgive' the perpetrator. But when you forgive, that means you absorb the loss and the debt. You bear it yourself. All forgiveness, then, is costly."  
Tim Keller

"No prayers can be heard which do not come from a forgiving heart."  
J. C. Ryle

"And you know, when you've experienced grace and you feel like you've been forgiven, you're a lot more forgiving of other people. You're a lot more gracious to others."  
Rick Warren

"The Bible says forgive your debtors; the world says 'sue them for their dough.'"  
Billy Sunday