

LIVE  UNOFFENDED



Forbearance



Offended people make lousy disciples



If Satan can keep Christians offended with every one, He can render us totally ineffective.



Ephesians 4:1-2

*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **showing forbearance** to one another in love...*



Forbearance:
“to put up with” or “to tolerate”



How to be forbearing...



1. Realize God made us all different...on
purpose



1 Corinthians 4:7

*For who makes you different from anyone else?
What do you have that you did not receive? And if
you did receive it, why do you boast as though
you did not?*



2. Distinguish between sin and non-sin issues.



James 4:11-12

Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it.



James 4:11-12

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?



3. Allow for immaturities in others



2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.



4. Look for the good in others



Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.



Matt 7:3

"And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"



5. Remember God has made us
dependent on others.



1 Corinthians 12:18-20

But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body.



1 Corinthians 12:21-23

And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;



1 Peter 1:6-8

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



If I am unwilling to put up with this person, I may miss what God is trying to teach me.



6. Pray for the offensive person



Luke 6:28

*bless those who curse you, pray for those who
mistreat you.*



7. Remember how forbearing God has been (and is) with you.



Rom 2:4

*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and **forbearance and patience**, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

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1 Thess 5:14-16

And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.



Rom 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

