

TRAINING FOR THE BATTLE: FORBEAR & FORGIVE 071220P

INTRODUCTION

1. Training: movements ingrained into muscles - 1C 9:26.
2. Where do we learn gospel-tactics? Church - "gospel-love" as overcomers.

1st: The Danger of Sin

1. Sin kills. Jms 1:14-16
2. Define sin biblically, not personal preferences. Care for conscience.

2nd: A Heart Predisposed to Gospel Love

1. Col 3:12 - *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love give preference to one another in honor* [Rm 12:10] Gal 6:10 do good to all, esp'ly believers.
2. View each other in terms of God's grace - *chosen, holy & beloved*
3. *Put on*: [v12]; w/ *put aside* [v8]; *laid aside old man* [v9]; in order to *put on new man* [v10] - union w/ Christ [Rm 6] = new men in Christ [v11]
4. *Heart* [intestines]: *compassion - kindness - humility - gentleness - patience*
5. *I urge Euodia & Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord* [Phil 4:2]. "Odi-ous & Soon-Touchy" - w/o self-awareness or concern for others.

3rd: Forebear and Forgive

1. When [not "if"] you sin, reenact what Jesus did w/ you when you bec/ Xn
 - i. *whoever has a complaint* vs. *anyone* - accusation, an offense.
 - ii. Paul not specify the perceived wrong - calls for gospel-love.
2. Our expertise - how we relate to Jesus & in Jesus, how we relate to others
 - i. v13 - *bearing w/ one another*: tolerate w/ patience - 1Pt 3:9
 - ii. v13 *forgiving each other* = present ongoing action. *Just as the Lord forgave you* [past & completed action] so also: in same way; how to.

4th: Forbear and Forgive by Faith

1. Eph 4:32 - basis for forgiveness is *in Christ*. Cross = legal foundation for forgiveness. The gospel in "gospel-love" = cross issues into resurrection.
2. Not our sincerity, but our Savior. To forgive requires exercise of faith in what Jesus has accomplished for us - 1Jn 2:12.
3. Appropriate gospel in order to give "gospel-love". Rm 1:16; 2Th 3:4-5. We live by faith & we love by faith.

4. Crucial: we need hearts transformed by Christ's gospel-love so that we can give His gospel-love to each other & to others.
5. Forgiveness not based on the forgiver's magnanimity nor the offender's penitence, but *in Christ*. Forgiveness is an act of faith in Christ in whom two believers are livingly united as one new man. *It is finished* - in Christ.

5th: When to Forbear or Forgive?

1. Col 3:12-14 With faith in Christ & reliance on Spirit we build relationships of gospel-love [v14].
 - i. Love is demonstrated as we bear w/ one another's sins
 - ii. Love demonstrated when we forgive each other's sins [transaction].
2. To forbear or not to forbear, that is the question. To forbear, perchance to forgive? Ay, there's the rub. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings & arrows of outrageous offenses or to take arms against them w/ gospel-love & by opposing end them?
 - i. A disposition, ready to forgive, is necessary for forbearance.
 - ii. But the disposition willing to forgive is not itself the transaction necessary to effect reconciliation.
3. There is a line that is crossed tw/ forbearance & forgiveness. Where is that line? Depends on the degree of intimacy required by the rlnshp. What is my place in this rlnshp as defined by Script? Accountable to Christ
 - i. Example: someone is rude to me [1C 13:5 *unbecoming*]
 - ii. Different levels of intimacy obligates different gospel response
 - iii. I'll forbear things with you that I wouldn't with my wife. Conscientious intimacy for unity in church is not same as in marriage altho analogous.
 - a. Corporate worship - Mat 5:23-24.
 - b. Keep good conscience in order to worship.
 - c. Need discernment & grace.
 - iv. The line is most readily seen in relationship w/ Jesus. He is more intimate w/ me than anyone: sees thots; weighs motives. He is zealous for intimacy & His love is what sustains our relationship.
4. When is sin to be forborne & when is it to be confronted in order to pursue forgiveness? It depends upon the nature of the rlnshp & what is necessary to maintain unity. When unity is lost, a line has been crossed. The more intimacy, the more we need forgiveness.
5. Basic training in gospel-love - stewards of relationships.