

1/31/2021



**Forbear:** To refrain or hold back. To be self-controlled when subject to annoyance or provocation.

*\*Definition taken from Dictionary.com*

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7

### God is a forbearing God

- Psalm 78:37-39
- Ultimate picture of "forbearance" is Jesus Christ on the cross
- Story of the orange tree's leaves

The results of 'forbearance' are often: repentance, realignment and restoration (Romans 2:4)

God in His perfect wisdom is patient with each and every one of us just as he needs to be

- Devoted followers
- Prodigal Son
- Thief on the cross

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." ~Ephesians 4:2*

**DISCLAIMER** - forbearance is not overlooking sin

- Jesus with the Pharisees
- Paul (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

### We are called to forbear with others

The hope in forbearance is that we would give other people the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

*"People who don't forbear or who aren't patient have an inflated view of themselves and a terrible memory." ~Jerry Sittser*

...Make allowance for each other's faults (Colossians 3:12-13 NLT)

When we don't forbear with others, we rob people of an opportunity to experience God's grace

What happens when we forbear with others?

- We allow the people to encounter God's grace
- Despite our differences and without compromising the truth God's called us to, we're able to come together
- Forbearance allows us to keep perspective - not only to see where we are today but to keep a vision for where we are going

### Reflection Questions

1. Think back, when have God and others "forbored" with you?
  
2. Where are you being called to forbear with others?

