**LIVING LIFE TOGETHER**

**“Forgiveness”**

**Philemon 8-16**

1. **The most essential key in ongoing, positive relationships is the ability to forgive**.

**II**. **Refusal to forgive builds barriers rather than bridges**.

**Philemon 8-16**

**III**. **True reconciliation cannot be forced or manipulated**.

**IV**. **The offending person initiates with a repentant heart and contrite spirit**

**God works through circumstances...grace triumphs over sin**.

**V**. **The offended person, motivated by love, extends forgiveness.**

***Colossians 3:12-14***

***12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,***

***13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.***

***14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.***

**VI**. **Both people put the past behind them and move forward**