

Chapter 8 Discussion Questions

1. Before coming to Equipping Hour, skim through Chapter 7. As you reflect on serving, how have you focused on growing in one of the following: your praying; your pursuing; or your sharing?
2. What does it mean to bear with one another?
3. Think about people whom you are having a difficult time bearing with currently. Can you find patterns of actions or attitudes that you are tempted to be impatient with? What do those patterns reveal about what you value? If that value is a good value, how should you think when someone hasn't cultivated it?
4. Scott Mehl brings up the issue of conscience in the context of bearing with one another. Have issues of conscience ever challenged your bearing with one another? How did you grow in serving through that challenge?
5. If you're willing, share how you have become more aware of ways in which others may find you difficult to bear.
6. What was the basic distinction between bearing with one another and forgiving one another in Chapter 8?
7. How is a biblical understanding of forgiveness different from a worldly understanding?
8. Following Chris Braun's definition from *Unpacking Forgiveness*, Mehl quotes that forgiveness is "a commitment by the offended to pardon graciously the repentant from moral liability and to be reconciled to that person, although not all consequences are necessarily eliminated" (114). What stands out to you as important in that definition and why?
9. Mehl says that forgiveness and subsequent reconciliation requires repentance. What should our attitude be toward someone who hasn't repented?
10. Why is forgiveness essential in biblical friendships (pp.116-117)?
11. Mehl likes to think of "church discipline" as "loving pursuit." Does that terminology challenge how you've thought about church discipline? If so, how?
12. Why does Mehl bring up the practice of church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17) in this chapter?

