

Earle Fike, Jr., “The Recovery of Brethren Forbearance,” pages 14-23

1. Where in the New Testament do you see examples of the practice of forbearance?
2. As a group, make a list of four, five, or six non-negotiable Brethren values. To what extent is the Church of the Brethren unified on these values?
3. Historically the Brethren have been of different minds about dress, higher education, ecumenism, Sunday school, revival meetings, women in ministry, and service in the military. Is the church more divided today than before? Why or why not? Is there a change in the way we’ve dealt with controversy? If so, what is it?
4. Forbearance means that one side has to “bear with” the other, or more likely, both sides bear with each other. What does it mean to bear with someone? How is it the same as or different from tolerating other viewpoints? If you can’t come to an agreement about something, what is the very least you would like to achieve as brothers and sisters in the faith?