

Studies in Christianity

Christian Love #17

S#1.

Love Keeps No Record of Wrongs

S#2.

Text : **I Corinthians 13: 4-7 ; Matthew 18: 21-35**

A. Bear with me as we do a little mental exercise.

S#3.

1. Picture before you two blank sheets of paper.
2. Label the top of the first one ,“*Wrongs committed against me.*”
 - a. Now go back through your memory and list all the wrongs you have suffered.
 - b. If you need another sheet, get one from the same place you got the first one.
3. Label the second one, “*Things I have done that hurt or offended others.*”
 - a. Now, on the second one list all of the wrongs you have committed against others.
 - b. This list is almost invariably much shorter than the first one.

B. This lesson will briefly examine the last phrase of I Cor. 13: 5:

I Cor. 13: 4 –Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag **S#4.**
and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its
own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered.

C. The Apostle presents this description of love in a logical fashion.

1. It is logical that treating someone with patience and kindness would eliminate any grounds for jealousy.
2. It is just as logical that one not brag or be arrogant with one of whom he is not jealous or will not seek to elevate himself about the one he does not view as a rival,
3. Not being rude or short with someone is the opposite of being patient and kind.

D. Our previous lesson looked at the concept of not being easily provoked.

S#5.

1. Though anger is sometimes appropriate, **like God**, the Christian is slow to anger.
James 1: 19 – This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be
quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; **20** for the anger
of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.
2. Being too quick to anger is such a common problem it has many descriptive terms.
 - a. Short fused or short tempered
 - b. Easily triggered or ticked off
 - c. Thin skinned or easily rubbed the wrong way

3. We observed the great emphasis placed on self-control in the proverbs. S#6.

Prov. 16: 32 – He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

4. God describes Himself as being gracious, compassionate and slow to anger. S#7.

a. **Exod. 34: 6** – Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed,
"The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; **7** who
keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression
and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished,

b. This description is repeated all through the O.T. ... history, prophets, Psalms

- c. Jonah did not want to preacher because God was so slow to apply wrath. S#8.

Jonah 4: 2 – ... Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish,
for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God,
slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who
relents concerning calamity.

E. We must be able to see the signs in ourselves before we can correct it.

1. We must be aware of our limitations.
2. Learn what triggers us and avoid it.
 - a. Plan to avoid the triggers. (*esp. people who*)
 - b. Establish a response in your mind.
 - c. When tempted, be quiet and pray. --
3. We communicate our irritation in many ways ... AVOID signaling irritation.
 - a. Sigh
 - b. Rolling one's eyes
 - c. Wincing or grimacing
4. We achieve self-control receiving the word, repenting and applying that word.

I. "Does not take into account a wrong suffered," translates a very interesting word S#9.

A. The word is "*logizomai* " which is an accounting term meaning : S#10.

1. to reckon , to consider , to calculate , to compute
 2. to credit , to account , to maintain
 3. to regard , to number , to take into account
- impute
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B. Different translations render this verse in a variety of different ways. S#11.

1. NASV ... – does not take into account a wrong suffered,
2. ESV & RSV ... is not irritable or resentful;

3. KJV & NKJV ... **thinks no evil;**
4. NIV ... **it keeps no record of wrongs.**

C. Thus the literal meaning is : Love does not reckon or take into account evil

1. Evil happens, **but** love does not allow the evil to affect it. (*as if it never happened*)
2. Evil is always present so love must never allow evil to interfere with its practice.

D. “logizomai ” is a common concept in the scriptures. (40 times, 27 by Paul) S#12.

1. **Mark 15: 28** ... which says, And He “was numbered“ with transgressors.
2. **John 11; 50** ... do you “take into account” that it is expedient for you that one man die
3. **Acts 19; 27** ... the temple of the great goddess Artemis be “regarded” as worthless
4. **Rom. 4:4** ... Now to the one who works, his wage is not “credited” as a favor,
 - a. **4: 8** ... blessed is the man whose sin the lord will not take into “account.”
 - b. **4: 10** ... How then was it “credited?” While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised?
 - c. **6: 11** ... Even so “consider” yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ

II. Many in the world are like a bookkeeper with a ledger recording wrongs. S#13.

A. They remember wrongs they’ve endures with a view toward getting even. S#14.

1. The biblical concept of loving forgiveness was repulsive to the Romans.
 - a. They considered forgiveness of a wrong suffered as weakness.
 - b. Their culture demanded immediate retribution for wrongs suffered.
2. The Muslims plant a bamboo to remind them and their children of a wrong.
3. Woman repeatedly took children and grandchildren to spot of wreck and told story.

B. The lack of forgiveness is a problem in families. S#15.

1. Between husbands and wives.
 - a. “I’ll stay with him / her because of the kids, **BUT** I’ll never forgive ...”
(*Unloving, unforgiving and lost eternally.*)
 - b. “I’ll forgive him her, **but not yet.** I just need more time.”
(*Doesn’t love the person; and is all about self.*)

(*III. ... He kissed Betty twice under the mistletoe, ?? At a party 10 yrs before, dating*)
2. Between parents and children.
 - a. “*He punished me for something my brother did and I told him I didn’t do it.*”
 - b. “*She was so strict she wouldn’t let me go anywhere.*” (*Had gotten pregnant b4*)

3. Grudges can destroy the fellowship of the church family.
 - a. While preaching a meeting at a congregation two members were telling me about a problem they were having with some of their brethren. Later, I asked one of the elders about the problem. He told me it had happened more than 20 yrs ago.
 - b. **"Bitterness is a poison one drinks hoping the other person will die."**

C. Confrontation is sometimes necessary. S#16.

1. The objective of confrontation is to WIN a brother. (*Not an argument*)
Matt. 18: 15 – If your brother sins, **go** and show him his fault in private;
 if he listens to you, you have won your brother.
2. The objective is not to get him told, **but to WIN your brother.**
3. The sole objective of the servant of Christ is to bring souls to HIM. (**Lk 19: 10**)
4. **GO** and **SHOW** ... Therefore, if we know a spiritual sibling is in sin, **but**
 Do not go and show, what is our condition before Christ ?
5. When a brother or sister is **WON** he/she is forgiven and returned to fellowship.

III. There are consequence to the keeping of a record of wrongs. S#17.

A. So long as the offense is held in active memory, forgiveness is withheld. S#18.

1. God explains forgiveness.
Jer. 31: 34 – They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each
 man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me,
 from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord,
 "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
2. God is omniscience, **i.e.**, He knows everything ... has total awareness.
3. The sin that's forgotten no longer effects the relationship or one's perception of other

B. If I am keeping a record I am holding a grudge. (*no matter what I call it*) S#19.

1. **Prov. 19: 11** – A man's discretion makes him slow to anger,
 And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.
2. When one understands grace, he will understand the need to forgive others. (**text**)
S#20.

C. The one who holds an offense in active memory tends to attribute evil motives.

1. Memory of the offense skews one's view of a brother. (*love does not think evil* KJV)
2. Will cause one to look for other things that are wrong ... real or imagined

D. A record kept will keep one primed for payback. (*wait balance ledger*) S#21.

1. A record kept is already the spirit of payback. (*within the motive for keeping it*)
2. The record kept tends to produce verbal barbs. (**Matt 15: 18** – from heart ... mouth)

E. When I am keeping a wrong in active memory, the body life is harmed. S#22.

1. You may think no one else notices, but they do and all suffer.
2. It fosters the taking of sides and the propagating of suspicions.

**CONCLUSION : So how do we eliminate the keeping of mental records ? S#23.
S#24.****A. It starts with self-discipline. *Learning to forgive is like learning to agape, it takes effort.***

1. Admit the problem is there and commit to resolving it.
2. Every time you think or remember evil say a pray for the offender. (**Lk 6: 27**)
 - a. Speak positively of him / her to God. (*Don't rehearse complaint to God*)
 - b. Ask a blessing on them. (*Don't question your sincerity, form the habit first*)

B. When their evil comes to mind, begin thanking God for your forgiveness.

1. You will be reminded of how much you are being forgiven of.
2. You will remember the parable in our text.

C. One who wants to be godly must meditate on how God forgives. S#25.

1. **Eph. 4: 32** – Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
 - a. God forgives ALL or none.
 - b. God doesn't put us on probation, make us wait or make us earn forgiveness.
2. God forgives the same sins repeatedly. S#26.
 - a. **Matt. 18: 21** – Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"
22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (*not 490 , Hebrew idiom = infinity*)
 - b. No man can make a rock too heavy for God to lift ... His grace is greater than...

D. "Agape" is a learned skill. Keep working at it until we perfect it. S#27.**INVITATION :**

S#28. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Matthew 18: 21-35**

21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. **24** "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. **25** "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. **26** "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' **27** "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. **28** "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' **29** "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' **30** "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. **31** "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. **32** "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** ' Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' **34** "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35** " My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

I Corinthians 13: 4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.