



**RCC Phoenix – 7.19.20 – (Love Series: Week 3) Love Forgives**

This week we are focusing on love and the role it plays in \_\_\_\_\_.

Forgiveness can be tough because it implies we have been \_\_\_\_\_.

It is in our human nature to hold a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Study at the University of California Irvine (Published Jan 2020)*

“We found that children intuitively hold grudges but have to be taught to show gratitude...” - Nadia Chernyak, UC Irvine assistant professor of cognitive sciences and lead author of the study.

If holding grudges is natural for the fallen and fleshly nature of human beings, then the desires for retaliation & \_\_\_\_\_ are not far behind.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT**

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

1. Love Keeps No Record of Being Wronged (\_\_\_\_\_): Logizomai

*Logizomai Definition:*

To reckon inward, count up or weigh the reasons, compute, calculate, suppose, deem, judge.

**Colossians 3:12-14 NLT**

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

We must remember that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ forgave us.

**Matthew 26:26-28 NLT**

“As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body.” And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. *It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.*”

The \_\_\_\_\_ of God is not only reserved for the people we like.

Jesus WILL forgive \_\_\_\_\_ who confesses their sin and truly believes in Him. This includes people who may have wronged us in the past. (1 John 1:9)

## 2. Love Does Not Rejoice at Injustice (\_\_\_\_\_): Adikia

*Adikia Definition:*

Injustice, unrighteousness of heart and life, a deed violating law and justice, act of unrighteousness

This not only speaks to us being happy when we directly retaliate but also includes us being happy when payback happens \_\_\_\_\_ (not originating with us).

### **Luke 6:27-36 NLT**

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you. “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.”

Those who wrong us are *not* acting in the way \_\_\_\_\_ commands.

If their hearts were truly submitted to Christ, they would not purposely hurt others.

This means any wrong done to us may appear to be a \_\_\_\_\_ attack on the surface but the root cause is a heart not submitted to Christ.

Understanding this can help reduce the lasting sting from others hurtful actions while leading us into a position of repaying evil with \_\_\_\_\_ and praying for those who have wronged us.

## 3. Love \_\_\_\_\_ All Things: Stego

*Stego Definition:*

To protect or keep by covering, to preserve

To cover over with silence, to keep secret, to hide, conceal the errors and faults of others

Adam Clarke Biblical Commentary

“Love conceals every thing that should be concealed; betrays no secret; retains the grace given; and goes on to continual increase. A person under the influence of this love never makes the sins, follies, faults, or imperfections of any man, the subject either of censure or conversation. He covers them as far as he can; and if alone privy to them, he retains the knowledge of them in his own bosom as far as he ought.”

If we have truly forgiven someone...

- we wipe the record \_\_\_\_\_.
- we don't \_\_\_\_\_ in payback.
- we don't expose \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of revenge.

#### 4. Forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_ Us From Death

Mayo Clinic Article on Forgiveness: "Why is it so easy to hold a grudge?"

*Being hurt by someone, particularly someone you love and trust, can cause anger, sadness and confusion. If you dwell on hurtful events or situations, grudges filled with resentment, vengeance and hostility can take root. If you allow negative feelings to crowd out positive feelings, you might find yourself swallowed up by your own bitterness or sense of injustice.*

*What are the effects of holding a grudge?*

*If you're unforgiving, you might:*

- *Bring anger and \_\_\_\_\_ into every relationship and new experience*
- *Become so wrapped up in the wrong that you can't enjoy the present*
- *Become depressed or \_\_\_\_\_*
- *Feel that your life lacks meaning or purpose, or that you're at odds with your spiritual beliefs*

Bitterness is like swallowing \_\_\_\_\_ and hoping it hurts someone else.

#### **Ephesians 4:30-32 NLT**

"And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

The physical health benefits of forgiving those who have wronged us are very real but they are not most important.

There are spiritual and eternal implications when we \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive others.

#### **Matthew 6:9-13 NLT**

"...Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

#### **Matthew 6:14-15 NLT**

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Forgiveness doesn't mean we have to become \_\_\_\_\_ with those who have wronged us.

Forgiveness means we let those who have wronged us off \_\_\_\_\_ hook and put them on \_\_\_\_\_ hook.