



Getting Grudges Gone

# Getting Grudges Gone

- “Grudges do no harm to the person against whom you hold these feelings but every day and every night of your life, they are eating at you.”  
(*N. V. Peale*)
- “Holding a grudge is like drinking poison and then hoping that the other person dies.” (*Anne Lamott*)
- Grudge is commonly defined as, “A feeling of ill will or resentment. A grudge involves resentment to the point of hatred as well as a desire for harm against the object of the grudge.” (*RHCD*)



# Jesus Taught Love For Our Enemies

- He taught it and practiced it.
  - Matt. 5:43-48 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”



# Jesus Taught Love For Our Enemies

- He taught it and practiced it.
  - Luke 23:33-34 - “And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

# Jesus Taught Love For Our Enemies

- He taught it and expects it of us.
  - Matt. 6:14-15 - “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
  - Matt. 18:34-35 - “And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”



# Forgiveness Is Conditional

- Luke 17:3 - “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”
  - The future real conditional participle “if” means forgiveness cannot be extended until there is a repentance.
  - Forgiveness is a sufficient condition; repentance is the necessary condition.



# Forgiveness Is Conditional

- “Jesus unconditionally forgave His executioners.”
  - Those same murderers for whom Jesus prayed his Father to forgive, were later charged with the sin of Jesus’ murder and told to repent.
  - Acts 2:22-23, 37-38 - “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death... 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”



# Forgiveness Is Conditional

- It was not until they complied with the terms of forgiveness that they were forgiven.
  - Acts 2:40-41, 47 - “And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’ 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them... 47 And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”



# Forgiveness Is Conditional

- This does not mean that one is to carry a grudge or harbor hate toward others until they repent. We must maintain a forgiving spirit.
  - Eph. 4:32 - “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”
- “A life lived without forgiveness is a prison.”  
*(William Arthur Ward)*



# Similarities Between God And Man's Forgiveness Of Sin

- The worst scenario involving humankind sinning against humankind cannot even begin to compare to the sins humankind commits against God.
  - Matt. 18:21-35
- However, there are similarities in the way the sin is to be forgiven.
  - Eph. 4:32 - “...Just as God in Christ forgave you.”





## Similarities Between God And Man's Forgiveness Of Sin

- If God's forgiveness of sin is conditional, then our forgiveness of sins must also be conditional.
- If God's forgiveness is given freely when the conditions are met, ours must be the same.
- If God's forgiveness is complete and eternal, ours must be as well.

# Grudges Are Self-Destructive

- Hate eats away at the grudge carrier until he is miserable and obsessed.
  - Eph. 4:26 - “Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath.”
  - Lev. 19:18 - “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”



# Grudges Are Self-Destructive

- Prov. 10:18 - “Whoever hides hatred has lying lips,  
And whoever spreads slander is a fool.”
- Prov. 26:24-26 - “He who hates, disguises it with  
his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; 25  
When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For  
there are seven abominations in his heart; 26  
Though his hatred is covered by deceit, His  
wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.”

# Grudges Are Self-Destructive

- Awareness of being sinned against is not the same as carrying a grudge.
- Grudges are always wrong and must be avoided.
- The attitude of always being willing to forgive will preclude grudge bearing.
  - Acts 7:60 - “Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, Lord, do not charge them with this sin. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”



# Grudges Are Self-Destructive

- However, to forgive without the repentance of the sinner is to release a debt without authority, and it deceives the sinner into thinking he no longer has the need to repent.
- Such “forgiveness” is the same as teaching remission of sins without baptism.

# Before Repentance Takes Place, What Does One Do?

- What did Jesus do while waiting for sinners to repent?
  - Admonished the erring to repent.
  - Matt. 18:15-17 - “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”



The background of the slide is a close-up, high-contrast image of flames. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with dark, smoky shadows in between, creating a textured and intense visual effect. The flames appear to be rising and swirling, filling the entire frame.

# Before Repentance Takes Place, What Does One Do?

- He strongly desired their repentance.
  - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”



# Before Repentance Takes Place, What Does One Do?

- He did not sin by obsessing on grievances and developing resentment and hatred toward those who have sinned.
  - Matt. 5:48 - “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”





# Getting Grudges Gone

- “Grudges are for those who insist that they are owed something; forgiveness, however, is for those who are substantial enough to move on.” (Crissjami)
- “To be wronged is nothing, unless you choose to continue to remember it.” (Confucius)

# Getting Grudges Gone

- Rom. 12:17-21 - “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. 20 Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”