

Getting Grudges Gone

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. "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)
 - 1. "Holding a grudge is like drinking poison and then hoping that the other person dies." (Anne Lamott)
 - 2. "Grudge" is commonly defined as, "A feeling of ill will or resentment. A grudge involves resentment to the point of hatred and a desire for harm against the object of the grudge. (RHCD)

I. JESUS TAUGHT LOVE FOR OUR ENEMIES

- A. He taught it and practiced it - Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 23:33-34
- B. He taught it and expects it of us - Matt. 6:14-15, 18:34-35

II. FORGIVENESS IS CONDITIONAL

- A. A Biblical truth many fail to grasp is that true forgiveness is conditional.
 - 1. Luke 17:3 - The future real conditional participle "if" indicates forgiveness cannot be extended until there is a repentance.
 - 2. Forgiveness is a sufficient condition; repentance is the necessary condition.
- B. "Jesus unconditionally forgave His executioners."
 - 1. Those same murderers for whom Jesus prayed His Father to forgive were later charged with the sin of Jesus' murder and told to repent.
 - a. Acts 2:22-23, 37-38
 - 2. It was not until they complied with the terms of forgiveness that they were forgiven - Acts 2:38-47
- C. This does not mean that one is to carry a grudge or harbor hatred toward others until they repent.
 - 1. We must maintain a forgiving spirit - Eph. 4:32
 - 2. "A life lived without forgiveness is a prison." (William Arthur Ward)

III. SIMILARITIES BETWEEN GOD'S AND MAN'S FORGIVENESS OF SIN

- A. The worst scenario involving human sinning against human cannot even begin to compare to the sins humans commit against God.
 - 1. Matt. 18:21-35
- B. However, there are similarities in the way the sin is to be forgiven - Eph. 4:32
 - 1. If God's forgiveness of sin is unconditional, then our forgiveness of sins must also be unconditional.
 - 2. If God's forgiveness is complete and eternal, ours must be as well.
 - 3. If God's forgiveness is given freely when the conditions are met, ours must be the same.

IV. GRUDGES ARE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE

- A. Hate eats away at the grudge carrier until he is miserable and obsessed.
 - 1. Eph. 4:26; Lev. 19:18; Prov. 10:18, 26:24-26
- B. Awareness of being sinned against is not the same as carrying a grudge.
 - 1. Grudges are always wrong and must be avoided.
 - 2. The attitude to always be willing to forgive will preclude grudge bearing.
 - a. Acts 7:60
 - 3. 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 needs to repent.
 - 4. Such "forgiveness" is the same as teaching the remission of sins without baptism.
- C. What did Jesus do while waiting for sinners to repent?
 - 1. Admonished the erring to repent - Matt. 18:15-17
 - 2. Strongly desired their repentance - 2Peter 3:9
 - 3. He did not sin by obsessing on grievances and developing resentment and hatred toward those who have sinned - Matt. 5:48

Conclusion:

- A. "Grudges are for those who insist that they are owed something; forgiveness, however, is for those who are substantial enough to move on." (Crissjani)
 - 1. "To be wronged is nothing, unless you choose to continue to remember it." (Confucius)
- B. Rom. 12:17-21