



# Love Forgives

René Schlaepfer  
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"Love... keeps **no record of wrongs.**" *1 Corinthians 13:5b*

## No relationship can survive the \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness!

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, **how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?** Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." *Matthew 18:21-22*

## Why should I forgive?

- **Because a lack of forgiveness** \_\_\_\_\_

"**Resentment** kills a fool..." *Job 5:2a*

"Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no **poisonous root of bitterness** grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." *Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)*

- **Because Christ** \_\_\_\_\_

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**" *Colossians 3:13 (NIV)*

- **Because Christ commands me** \_\_\_\_\_

"And when you stand praying, **if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him**, so that your Father in heaven **may forgive you your sins.**" *Mark 11:25*

- **Because a lack of forgiveness** \_\_\_\_\_

"[The LORD says,] 'Forget the former things; **do not dwell on the past.** See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" *Isaiah 43:18-19a*

## Forgiveness is not:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Forgiveness is:

- **An** \_\_\_\_\_ **act of** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ **my resentment**

over

## Practical ways to “keep no record of wrongs”:

### 1. Deal with it \_\_\_\_\_

“And ‘don’t sin by letting anger control you.’ Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry.” *Ephesians 4:26* (NLT)

### 2. Determine to \_\_\_\_\_

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” *Ephesians 4:32* (NIV)

### 3. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.” *Romans 12:17,19*

### 4. Do \_\_\_\_\_

“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” *Luke 6:27-28*

“...The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness...” *Exodus 34:6b*

## THE BIG IDEA:

“Keeping no record of wrongs” is rooted in my understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ toward me!

## Resources

Les Carter, *Putting the Past Behind*  
Lewis B. Smedes, *Forgive and Forget*

### LOVE PROJECTS

1. Bring food for Second Harvest. Let’s break last year’s record! **Bring in food now through November 9**
2. Have your small group apply for a LOVE grant: **Apply online at [www.tlclove.com](http://www.tlclove.com)**
3. Do weekly acts of kindness and leave a LOVE calling card.
4. Write someone a “LOVE” card.



## Preview Weekend: What Matters Most

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” *Matthew 22:37-39* (NIV)

### Week 1: God’s Love for You

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” *1 John 4:16*

### Week 2: Love is Patient

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” *1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

### Week 3: Love is Kind

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” *John 13:34-35*

### Week 4: Love is Secure

“Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long...” *Deuteronomy 33:12b*

### Week 5: Love Forgives

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” *1 Peter 4:8*

### Week 6: Telling God You Love Him

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Romans 8:38-39*

### Week 7: What Matters Most

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” *1 Corinthians 13:6-8a*



“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”  
*1 Peter 4:8* (NIV)