

The Body of Christ, Spiritual Gifts, and Spiritual Maturity, Part 14
“Love Keeps no Record of Wrongs”
1 Corinthians 13:5

The Apostle’s Teaching on the Characteristics of Love – vv. 4-7 Overview:

1. Everything in these verses is behavioral.
2. Paul is interested to apply these things especially in relationships in the body of Christ.
3. Paul begins his portrait of love as it shows itself amidst the sins and offenses of a fallen world.
4. “Love” – Gk. AGAPE
5. These things are impossible to the flesh! cf. Gal. 5:16-26

Love keeps no record of wrongs, but rather genuinely forgives!

1. What is Natural to the Flesh: Keeping a Record of Wrongs

“love...thinks no evil”

(1) Defined:

Various renderings: KJV: “thinks no evil” - ESV: “is not resentful”
NASV: “does not take into account a wrong suffered”

Some suggested meanings: 1. Does not plan or devise evil
2. Does not impute evil, i.e., attribute evil motives to others

- Gk: LOGIZETAI → LOGIZO

- Old verb from LOGOS: “to count up” TA KAKON = “the evil”

- Very literally: “does not count up the evil”

- **This is the very verb used to describe the pardoning act of God.**

He does not *impute* to us our guilt; He does not “*put it to our account.*” Ps. 32:2; Rom. 4:8

- **To take account of as in a ledger or notebook, the evil done against me, with a view to settling the account.**

(2) Keeping a Record of Wrongs – “Fleshed out”

-1- When I am keeping a record of wrongs, I am refusing to truly forgive.

- My disposition toward my brother or sister will be colored by this
- I will in some measure be withdrawn in spirit from my brother or sister

-2- When I am keeping a record of wrongs, I am harboring a grudge.

- Consider the related rendering here: “Love is not resentful” ESV
- “A private file (ledger) of personal grievances that can be consulted and nursed whenever there is possibility of some new slight.”

-3- When I am keeping a record of wrongs, I will tend to impute evil motive.

- cf. “Love thinks no evil” KJV, NKJV
- I will tend to look for other things that are wrong, whether real or imagined.

-4- When I am keeping a record of wrongs, I will be primed to “pay back!”

- I am actually *already* “paying back” in some measure!
- I will thus justify my sinful behavior toward my brother or sister.

-5- When I am keeping a record of wrongs, body life is harmed! Heb. 12:15

2. What is Characteristic of Love: Forgiving and Forgetting!

(1) Love is *ready* to forgive.

- Since it is selfless, it is therefore not “primed” to defend its own interests. It is therefore *not* easily offended. It is not enraged at the moment.
- Offenses are viewed in a proper perspective! Life is not all about me!

(2) Love *genuinely* forgives.

It forgives as God forgives. Matt. 6:12; Eph. 4:32
It *does not* keep an account of wrongs done.

(3) Love forgives, such that the offense is virtually forgotten!

The memory of the offense quickly fades away.
My interaction, engagement with my brother or sister is not colored by the offense.
I am not withdrawing in spirit from my brother or sister.

(4) For these reasons, the unity of the church – *body life* – is guarded and cherished.

Love is not looking for a church in which there are no sinners!
Love *sees Christ* in one’s brothers and sisters! Love sees what my brother can be, will be!