

B. 1The **test** of sincerity is a willingness to make a commitment not to raise the issue again.

*“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered.”* Psalm 32:1

1. Not dwelling on it **yourself**.

Do I have to forget in order to forgive?

People often say, “If you didn’t forget about the incident, then you really didn’t forgive the person.” This simply is not true! Once forgiveness is granted, recurring thoughts about the episode probably will occur. When this happens, we must not **dwel**l on the past, but replace this ungodly thought from our flesh with a godly thought from our Bible.

“casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” II Corinthians 10:5

2. Not bringing it up to the **person**.

“He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.”
Proverbs 17:9

3. Not talking about it with **others**.

“Do not speak evil of one another,...” James 4:11a

“...forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:32b

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO PUMP UP THE LOVE VOLUME IN YOUR LIFE?

*“4: I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers,
5: hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,”*
Philemon 4-5

LOVE OUT LOUD

Love Is Forgiving

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INTRODUCTION

A. Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone loved out loud? There is no doubt love matters to God because He is love. One area that each of us needs to improve is our love for one another.

“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8

B. In this series, you will learn how to pump up the love volume in your life!

June 30	What Matters Most
July 7	Love Is Kind
July 14	Love Is Humble
July 21	Love Is Respectful
July 28	Missions Emphasis
Aug 4	Love Is Patient
TODAY	Love Is Forgiving
Aug 18	Love Is Truthful
Aug 25	Love Is Positive

C. **Text:** I Corinthians 13:5c (Pew Bible/Pg. 179/New Test.)
Love is what matters most to God. If you don’t live a life of love...

- Nothing you **say** will matter (13:1)
- Nothing you **know** will matter (13:2a)
- Nothing you **believe** will matter (13:2b)
- Nothing you **give** will matter (13:3a)
- Nothing you **sacrifice** will matter (13:3b)

The Bible is clear that love is the **supreme** value of life. (vs 8-13)

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
I Corinthians 13:13

HOW TO BE A FORGIVING PERSON

Matthew 18:21-35

I. THE **REGULARITY** OF FORGIVENESS (18:21-22)

A. Forgiveness is a **lifestyle**.

1. Jewish law taught you had to forgive **three** times.
2. Peter's law taught you had to forgive **seven** times.
3. Jesus taught you had to forgive an **unlimited** number of times.

Why? Because Jesus came to give us an **abundant** life and bitterness takes away from our quality of life.

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

B. Forgiveness is a **choice**.

It is a decision that we make based on an act of the **will**, not an emotion.

"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."

Acts 7:60

II. THE **EXAMPLE** OF FORGIVENESS (18:23-27)

"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

Colossians 3:13

A. The **Poverty** of Man (18:23-24)

"But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away."

Isaiah 64:6

B. The **Penalty** of Sin (18:25)

"For the wages of sin is death;"

Romans 6:23a

C. The **Pardon** of God (18:26-27)

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,"

I Peter 3:18

III. THE **ACT** OF FORGIVENESS (18:28-34)

A. It is **releasing** someone from a **debt** that was caused by their offensive actions towards you.

"13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

Colossians 2:13-14

B. It is **surrendering** your right to **hurt** those who have hurt you.

"17 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."

Romans 12:17-21

IV. THE **TEST** OF FORGIVENESS (18:35)

A. Forgiveness "from your heart" means to be **sincere**.

"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me."

Matthew 15:8