

Love Isn't Just a Four Letter Word...

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No one is perfect and that is why we need to accept each other, flaws and all. As true believers, we must endeavor to become softer, gentler, more loving in order to become fully capable to absorb the effect of a personal assault and not then retaliate. Often we seek revenge as a way of getting back, trying to make ourselves whole again. It is human nature to want to "teach them a lesson." But it never works. Instead, we must come to actualize Yahshua's prophetic lesson to turn the other cheek, in effect to become a shock absorber! For most people, such a passive reaction does not come naturally. But we cannot receive what we're unwilling to give to others. If we want to be forgiven in heaven, we need to forgive those that we have any issue with. Forgiveness is a two-way street. Our Lord gave us the instructions in Matthew 6:9-15.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. 14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Once baptized in Christ, we should do everything in our power to obey our Heavenly Father by not sinning. He uses us as living examples to help others see what change is possible through His grace and our calling. There are times when we revert to old ways when we set ourselves against those closest to us whether a parent, spouse, child or brethren. How this behavior must pain our Creator when we take His loved one for granted. If only we would try and treat every person as His masterpiece of creation, we might then see that our faults against others are opposing His loving nature.

In Rom 5:8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

If our Heavenly Father extends grace toward all of us, then we are to extend the same unmerited pardon to those we live and interact with. Even if one is misunderstood, we must try to understand what that individual is trying to express. In a way our minds are computers and we are responsible for programming them. Over the years a lot of negative emotions and garbage have been filed into the old memory bank. Our behavior is patterned from childhood and we as creatures of habit tend to rely on unhealthy coping skills when something rocks our world.

Eph 4:1-6 & 26 & 29-32

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your

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calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ignorance is always swift to speak and slow to listen. We all have anger. In our mind we use that emotion to defend what we perceive as an attack on our fragile ego. When we refuse to listen to what is being presented, we are literally unable to hear a word of what is being said to us. Instead, we are thinking of an uncharted response—what we are going to say next. We must break this thought chain that allows the mind to repeat old patterns that no longer serve us well. We must begin to exercise the action word, “love.” Love is just a four letter word until we apply ourselves and show that we are a new creation in Christ. Slow, stop, and hear are a few more four letter action words that can help us keep on a positive track during a conflict. James’ simple message should be the first thing we think about when our feathers become ruffled.

James 1:19-20: 19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Our Lord Yahshua kept no record of wrong, rather, He prayed “Father, forgive them.”

Luke 23:34: Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Don't hold onto anger over a hurt and don't stockpile every hurt for ammunition. We can choose to hold on to a hurt, or we can choose forgiveness. Only one option is healthy and only one will give you freedom to move forward in love.

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

We can learn something from the ducks. When you get your feathers ruffled, flap your wings a bit, let the water run off your back and move on to a different place on the pond. Let it go. The longer you love somebody, the more you know their flaws. You can choose to either be critical or gracious. You can be picky or kind. You can be a perfectionist or you can show mercy. Showing mercy goes against our nature to fight back, harbor a hurt, and have the last word. Being merciful is not always an easy thing to do; we don't have to rely on our own strength. Trust that premise as a true believer, you have the

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power of the Father's Spirit within to help you choose the things He loves most: mercy, justice, compassion, forgiveness and love.

Micah 7:18: Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Our Father leads by His example just like our parents taught us all that we learned as small children. True godly love forgives and refuses to keep track of personal slights. When we are wronged or we do wrong, we need to face it. When we are guilty of a wrong, own it instead of blaming someone else. None of us wants to be in the wrong, but there are times when we are. Stop running and stop blaming. Deal with anger, face it and then let it go.

Lev 19:16-18

16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD. 17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. 18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Stockpiling past disappointments only become weapons of defense. Don't remember and retaliate because love keeps no record of wrongdoing. Don't try to make yourself feel better by giving only one side of the story to others. There are always three sides to a story and therein lies the truth.

Love and forgiveness are the special requirements for any disciple of our Lord Yahshua. When we exercise both of them we will be able to find healing for our own wounds and offer healing toward others.

*Be gentle ...not judgmental!
Instead of demanding...try understanding!*

"Every person should have a special cemetery lot in which to bury the faults of friends and loved ones." Henry Ward Beecher

Proverb to Ponder:

17:9 King James

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9 He that covers a transgression seeks love; but
10 he that repeats a matter separates very friends.

17:9 Complete Jewish Bible

9 He who conceals an offense promotes love,
But he who harps on it can separate even close friends.

17:9 NLT

Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

Don't repeat it... delete it!

Scriptures KJV unless otherwise noted*

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