

(Romans 12:14-21) Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Why are we to love like this?

1. Forgiveness _____ God.

(Colossians 3:12-13;17) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

2. Forgiveness grows our _____ in God.

(Matthew 5:7) Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

(Mark 11:25) But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

3. Forgiveness gives the opportunity for others to _____ God.

(Ephesians 4:2-3) Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

What happens when we don't love like this?

1. Unforgiveness is _____ to our ability to _____.

(Proverbs 18:19) An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

2. Unforgiveness _____ us of our _____.

(2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV) Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

3. Unforgiveness gives an _____ for the _____.

(Hebrews 12:14-15) Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. 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.

How do I love like this?

1. Remember _____ forgiven.

(Colossians 3:13) Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

(Matthew 6:12) and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

2. Remember forgiveness isn't making _____ right, it's allowing God to make _____ right.

(Ephesians 4:30-32) And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

3. Remember _____ gives me the ability for forgive.

(Luke 6:36 ESV) Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

(Hebrews 4:16) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.