

My List

I have had a mental list in my mind. I don't know that I have deliberately or even consciously kept this mental list. I just know that it has existed. It exists today, even right now. **What kind of list have you kept in your mind?** I am sad to say that I have kept a mental list in my mind of wrongs that people have committed against me. **What do you think about such a list being in your mind?** I think it is a worthless list. It is an unhelpful list. I suppose it is even a sinful list. **Why is the list worthless?** I don't plan on taking any action related to the list. I won't be seeking revenge. **That's good. But there is more isn't there?** Yes, there is. Once someone has gotten on my mental list of wrongs done against me, it is unlikely that I will ever be close to them again. That sounds terrible, I know. But it is worse than that. **How so?** Once someone is on my list, it is quite likely that I will take steps to distance myself from them. How does that sound? **Not good.** I know. **What do you know?** My attitude and my list is not at all loving and forgiving. My attitude and my list certainly does not leave much hope and room for reconciliation. **Why are we talking about your attitude and list now anyhow?** Well, I am confessing this sin to you. I am asking for your forgiveness. **You have my forgiveness.** But I also want to let go of wrongs committed against me. I don't want to have a list of wrongs committed against me, residing in my mind. **That's good.**

What would you like me to do for you? I have frequently, almost daily, asked you to make me to be more like you. **Yes, I have heard that prayer of yours many times. What do you have in mind?** I want to love like you loved. I want to do what you did. **How so?** Your deep love for others made you able to overlook and forgive the sins that they committed against you. You did not keep a list of wrongs committed against you. You did not distance yourself from those who hurt or harmed you. Instead, you loved and forgave them. Even more, you prayed for those who sinned against you. You are always ready to forgive. You are also seeking reconciliation. **Yes, I am.** You are always hoping that people will turn to love and follow and serve you. **Yes, I am.** So, I want you to help me to love others deeply from my heart. I want you to make me able to fully love and freely forgive others just as you do. I want you to destroy my list and help me to make sure that no one gets on it, because it no longer exists. **That I can and that I will do for you. That will be very good.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, help me to love others deeply from my heart. Keep me from holding on to a list of wrongs that have been committed against me. Rather give me a love for others that is ready, willing and able to cover over any sin that has been committed against me. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Love Each Other Deeply*

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

NIV 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Loving One Another Earnestly*

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

ESV 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Deep Love For Each Other*

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

NLT 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Fervent Love For One Another*

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

NKJV 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Constant Love For One Another*

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

NRSV 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Love Each Other*

Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything.

MSG 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Unfailing Love For One Another*

Above all things have intense and unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others].

AMP 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Show Deep Love*

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love makes up for many of your faults.

TLB 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Fervent In Your Love*

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

NASB 1 Peter 4:8

Becoming Like Christ *Love Each Other Deeply*

Most importantly, love each other deeply, because love will cause many sins to be forgiven.

NCV 1 Peter 4:8

Love Each Other Deeply

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – 1 Peter 4:8

In Context: Read 1 Peter 4

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, help me to love others deeply from my heart. Keep me from holding on to a list of wrongs that have been committed against me. Rather give me a love for others that is ready, willing and able to cover over any sin that has been committed against me. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you held on to a mental list of wrongs that have been committed against you?

How quickly are you ready to be offended by and hold on to something someone said or did to you?

When have you mistakenly jumped to the conclusion that someone did or said something to hurt you?

How ready, willing and able are you to see the failings and weaknesses in others?

Why can you be certain that you also have many known and unknown failings and weaknesses others can see?

How has your deep love for others helped you to overlook failings and weaknesses in them?

When has your deep love for others made you able to overlook a sin, they committed against you?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Allow your deep love for others to cover over the sins they have committed against you.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will help you to love others deeply from your heart.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how your deep love for others covers over their sins.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you love others deeply so you can forgive them freely.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will love others deeply so I can forgive them freely.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I love and forgive others freely today?
