

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – December 5, 2021

Theme: Love: A More Excellent Way **Topic:** Love thinks no evil but rejoices with the truth

Main Texts: 1 Corinthians 13:1-6, Ephesians 4:17-5:1-2

Key verse: 1 Corinthians 13:6 – “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth” (NIV)

INTRODUCTION: One half of today’s topic highlights is that ‘*love thinks no evil.*’ ‘**Logizetai**’ is the Greek word translated as ‘*think*’ by some translators. It means ‘*to keep account.*’ ‘**Kakon**’ is the Greek word translated as ‘evil’ and it means ‘*wrongs.*’ So, when the NKJV says in 1 Corinthians 13:5 ‘...thinks no evil’, it is saying love does not keep records of wrongs. That is how translations like the NLT and CSB render that verse. We know that God commands us to forgive those who trespass against us. And we really do want to forgive. But 1 Corinthians 13:5 takes the command to forgive to a different level in expecting that believers not only forgive, but also keep no record of those offences. But is it possible to not keep record of those wrongs done to us?

1. (a) What are some reason(s) why people tend to keep a record of wrongs done to them? (b) Regarding our everyday life, identify ways in which such keeping of records manifest. See Acts 9: 10-14; 1 Timothy 1;12-17. (c) What are some ways this keeping of records of wrongs can negate the expression of love for God and for others?

So, keeping scores is evil. And clearly contrary to the nature of love. In contrast to keeping score, the second half of today’s topic tells us an aspect of the true character of love – that love, joy and truth are connected. The Greek word Paul used here to denote truth indicates a broad concept of truth such as sincerity, and moral truth. Contrast this pursuit of sincerity and moral truth with the insincerity which has come to dominate various levels of relationships in society today. Half-truth has become an accepted lexicon in our society today. Love is never glad when others go wrong. ‘*It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.*’ (1 Corinthians 13:6b NLT). Rejoicing with the truth is not a passive posture of love, but an active one.

2. (a) Let participants read Ephesians 4:25-28, 31 and identify ways in which true Christian fellowship can be hampered because of the absence of truth (b) What are some reasons why people, even believers tend to fudge the truth or outrightly refuse to pursue the truth? (c) How can love for God and for others bolster truth in our midst?

Love, joy, and truth should be inseparable in the believer’s life and in the Church because they are three of the undeniable attributes of God. (See John 14:6; 1 John 4:8). But around us, there is no joy, no love, and no truth, at home, on the streets, at work. No wonder believers are commanded to “*Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.*” (Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT). To obey this command, the believer will need to act contrary to the society around them (Ephesians 4:17); contrary to his old nature (Ephesians 4:24-31)

3. When you think of the command to imitate God in everything, and to follow Christ’s example: (a) What areas do you see this imitation of God and following Christ’s example most needed? (b) What are some sacrifices we might need to make to imitate God and follow Christ’s example in aspect of not keeping record of wrongs? (c) Considering the extent that the society is willing to go to destroy truth of God’s word, how can believers actively promote truth in family life, at work and in business?

Prayer: Thank You LORD that I am now a new creation, and Your Spirit now lives in me. Let my mind be renewed daily and help me not to think any evil but rejoice with the truth, in Christ’s Name. Amen.