

Forgiveness in the Concrete

1. The Problem: Who's on your list?

What's the problem with having people on your list?

- Destruction is always the result:

The Michael McLendon Story

Police: Ala. gunman kept list of people who 'had done him wrong'

The gunman who killed 10 people and committed suicide in a rampage across the Alabama countryside had struggled to keep a job and left behind a list of employers and co-workers he believed had wronged him, authorities said Wednesday. [Daily Record – 3/12/09]

2. The Meaning: “it keeps not record of wrongs” (I Corinthians 13:5c)

- “logizomai”: - an accountant's term
 - entering an item in a ledger so that it will not be forgotten
 - to ponder, so as not to forget
 - occupy yourself with calculations
- forgiveness:
 - you no longer owe me
 - the injury, inflicted by you, will no longer control how I treat you.
 - I refuse to cling to my rights

3. A Primary Truth: Our forgiveness and God's forgiveness

- Christ's forgiveness is our model of forgiveness
(Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13)

- Christ's forgiveness is the goal of our forgiveness (Mark 11:25)

4. A Biblical Portrait: 2 Samuel 9:7

- the contextual background

- the textual truths:
 - release from debt

 - rising above reaction

 - restoring of relationship

 - risk