

# Love Lets it Go

## **1 Corinthians 13:5**

*Love is not rude, love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable and love keeps no record of when it has been wronged.*

- The Bible says that God Himself is love
- This means that:

God is not rude

God does not demand His own way

God is not irritable

God keeps no record of when He has been wronged

I made it more personal....

God is not rude – towards me

God does not demand His own way – towards me

God is not irritable – towards me

God keeps no record of when He has been wronged – by me

“LOVE IS NOT RUDE”

**Proverbs 18:13** *Answering before listening is both stupid and rude.*  
(msg)

The wording of this verse in the Message translation is very blunt!

Answering before listening because we don't have time to listen to a person, or we want to hurry the conversation on so we try to pre-empt them.

It shows a lack of genuine interest on our part and we can lose people's confidence in us.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** *“Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, **just as God forgave you because of Christ.**”*

What is the key to being able to change our behaviour and attitudes when we display these kinds of things towards others?

God has forgiven us, because of Christ.

We must come back to this truth again and again BY FAITH.

We need to ask the Holy Spirit to make it real to us personally –

Ask Him to cultivate thankfulness and appreciation in us.  
Not a dutiful thankfulness but a genuine appreciation. This frees us from harmful behaviour and attitudes towards others.

### “LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY”

**Philippians 2: 5-7** *“Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made Himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.*

Those words “He did not demand and cling to his rights” – Society encourages us to demand, to fight for rights. We live in a society that is reactive – full of a lot of anger and outrage.

Isaiah prophesied about the kind of ministry Jesus would have when he would come to minister among men:

Isaiah 42 v 2 *He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make his voice heard in the streets. v3 A bruised reed He will not break and a smouldering wick He will not extinguish....*

Jesus way of bringing justice to all peoples is not with an attitude of angry protest or violent rebellion – no loud demands or resistance. He would not shame or ridicule people who were weak or had different views.

### LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE (easily angered)

The opposite of a person who is easily angered is someone who is of a gentle nature.

**Proverbs 15:4 (nlt)** *Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.*

So much outrage and anger in society today. People are reactive. The billions of words and sentences that are spoken, heard and read, shared around on social media do much damage. Peoples lives, reputations, families, careers and futures are badly damaged, sometimes beyond repair, because of deceitful and damaging words.

Irritability is a joy killer. It brings a heavy and uneasy atmosphere. People don't want to be around you.

When Christ makes a person a new creation, with a new nature – these attitudes are also dealt with by the Holy Spirit. Their grip is loosened and God's love brings a change within.

Example: John 4: 4-26 The woman at the well – Jesus dealt with her situation with respect and was careful not to make her feel condemned. His words to her, as he gently revealed her own life and past to her, caused her to respond to him. She wanted to continue on the conversation. The more Jesus spoke to her, the more she was being ministered to. He told her honestly about her sinful life, but in a way that did not cause her harm.

**Ecclesiastes 10:4** *(nlt) If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great offences to rest.*

David dealing with King Saul. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) dealing with Nebuchadnezzar. These men

Their attitudes and responses to their rulers was respectful and honourable – before God and before others.

## LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS

**Mark 11:25** *(amp) "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop, leave it and let it go, in order that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive you your own failings and shortcomings and let them drop".*

This is what Paul urged Philemon to do in relation to his runaway slave Onesimus, who had wronged him and then escaped. (Paul's letter to Philemon)

Us releasing people through forgiveness. Making a choice before the Lord to let things go. This brings healing to us in so many ways. It brings a new joy, a new lease of life and enriches our relationship with God and others.

LOVE LETS IT GO!