

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Holding Grudges

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**D**o you hold a grudge?

I struggle with grudges. I come from a long line of grudge holders. You may never have known my dear sweet mom, but she could and would hold a grudge, sometimes longer than life itself. Her dad, my grandfather, a crusty old reprobate, was probably the one whom she picked it up from and unfortunately, she might have passed that trait on to her oldest son.

A grudge is defined as: *a feeling of deep-seated resentment or ill will.* With this definition in mind, a good grudge holder can flame that resentment into a fire that can border on hate. Now and again it'll cross that line. If we aren't careful, it can consume those of us who will allow that to happen.

A grudge also develops a negative energy surrounding the holder, affecting all who have contact with them. This negativity and resentment bleeds through any demeanor that we try to place before it.

Do you wonder if there

could be legitimate reasons to hold a grudge? Are there justifications that can be made about these matters, so we can feel comfortable about our holding a grudge?

We need to be careful about making justifications for our actions. Using terms like *righteous indignation*, and *virtuous anger*, although they have a place in our lives when used in the manner that they were intended, also have a tendency to be used so we can sound rational in our feelings about these deep-seated resentments, which by the way, is one of the definitions of a grudge.

Have you ever wrapped yourself in the cloak of self righteousness and found yourself wishing that someone would “get what they had coming”, or wanting someone to get their “just reward”? These inclinations could be considered *ill will*. That is another definition of a grudge.

In the Old Testament, which was written for our instruction, states in Leviticus 19:18 *you shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

In the New Testament, in Romans 12:17 -19, God tells us to “*Render to no man evil for evil,*” and to “*Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto Me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.*” Vengeance belongs to God, not us. He will recompense on His day of judgment, not ours.

So, when we feel that deep-seated resentment or ill will start to bubble to the surface; when we in conversation feel we have the need to criticize and condemn, we need to take a hard look at what is motivating our thoughts and actions. Remember John 8:7 *He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone.*

Our emotions can cause us to have “unchristian” like feelings, and to say “unchristian” like things. We need to be on guard about how we perceive things and situations; we need to be on guard about how we are perceived.

Holding a grudge, is not being a very good Christian...