

# COST OF THE GRUDGE

# THE GRUDGE

FREEDOM IN FORGIVENESS

## GOD EXPECTS

**MATTHEW 6:12 NLT** “and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.”

**MATTHEW 6:14-15 NLT** “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>(15)</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

**MARK 11:25 NLT** “But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

**MATTHEW 18:21-22 NLT** Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” <sup>(22)</sup> “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”

## GOD JUDGES

**MATTHEW 18:33-35 NLT** “Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?” <sup>(34)</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. <sup>(35)</sup> “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

**LUKE 6:37 ESV** “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;”

**JAMES 2:12-13 NLT** So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. <sup>(13)</sup> There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

## GOD’S DIRECTION

**COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 NLT** Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>(13)</sup> Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>(14)</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>(15)</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

**PROVERBS 18:19 NLT** An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

**MATTHEW 18:15 NLT** “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.”

## THINK & DISCUSS:

1. What’s the reasoning for God making forgiveness conditional?
2. How do you react to God’s judgement on unforgiveness?
3. What action do you need to take in your own life as a result of these truths?

**MY STEP:** Ask yourself, “Am I holding a grudge?”