



Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

Do Something Good

BECKY COMBEE

I have been a student of God's love – *agape* – for several decades. In fact, our first book, called "This Is Love," examines the love of God in depth. Yet, every now and then I am still prompted by the Spirit of God to research that famous passage in 1 Corinthians 13 one more time. It is always profitable.

Recently, as I was praying, my spirit reminded me of the phrase from this chapter, "Thinketh no evil." I knew the definition of "thinketh" from previous studies, but I had never examined it completely. The Greek word translated "thinketh"



means to take an inventory, estimate, count, number and conclude.¹ Our learned Bible scholars interpret this phrase, "[Love] doesn't keep record of complaints,"² "doesn't keep score of the sins of others,"³ or "takes no account of evil done to it."⁴ Wow!

I know from experience that most of us will read and study these translations and quickly declare our innocence. However, I believe that is

The Great Informer

SUZANNE D. WILLIAMS

I see it all the time, some inane statement by some uninformed human who wouldn't have said that if they had a brain in their head. And heaven, help me, I'm going to fix them. I've got this square, know how it's supposed to be. Ask me and I have the answer.

In the pulpit. Out of the pulpit. In a book, a newsletter, a blog. Especially on a social network. **God bless their stupid heads and darling hearts.** If they had what I have, knew what I knew, they'd sit up and it'd hit them right between the eyes.

They'd have a light bulb moment. "Gee, I'm dumb, and you're right, I should've seen it. I'm so sorry for not listening to you."

That's right. You should have asked me because I've figured it out.

But Suzanne ...

Oh, put your hand down, you know you've been there. **You've played God.** You, the great informer. You, the salvation of your spouse, your friend, that nitwit over there. That author. That twitter follower. Your Facebook friend. How dare he or she or him or her or that preacher or that wife or her husband or those teens or that college student say such things!

Friends, stupid is as stupid does. **Did I in judging them fail to see the telephone pole in my**

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because we do not convert these words into every day vocabulary. We'll say, "That's the second time you've done that to me," or, "I've told you one thousand times," obviously keeping count of offenses. Then we readily interject, "You always," and, "You never," into conversations, letting the other person know that we are watching and, of course, COUNTING.

Now, what is wrong with counting or taking inventory? That is very simple. It leads to brooding, judgment, and revenge. Without question, these words do not reflect the love of God.

There is so much to learn from a study of these three words. The word "brood" means "to remain a long time in anxiety"⁵ or to dwell on a subject a long time.⁶ The word "judge" is variously defined and includes, "to form an opinion, to hear and determine, to pass sentence."⁵ It goes without saying (although we are going to say it) that if we constantly dwell on an offense, it won't be very long before we judge the offender guilty and seek revenge. Revenge is the desire to inflict pain or injury on one we believe has injured us.⁵ But why is revenge wrong? It is wrong because it contradicts and negates the Word of God! It positions us as judge, a job that is beyond our ability!

God's Word says, "Overcome evil with good."⁷ Jesus gave this same instruction in the Sermon on the Mount when he said to love our enemies, bless them, pray for them and do good to them. It pays to carefully follow this Scripture, especially when we are under duress. We must DO something good that would BLESS our enemy and PRAY for them as well. Jesus said so!

If we hear the Word of God with our heart, we will DO for others what we would like them to do for us.⁸ We will call them or send a card, bake a cake or prepare a casserole, pay for lunch or buy their coffee. We will follow God's command to DO GOOD. The Holy Spirit will always lead us! Yet, BE CERTAIN, there are times when He will direct us

solely to FORGIVE and PRAY. At those times, you cannot or should not DO anything more.

The Holy Spirit is God, and God alone knows the heart of man. God alone, who gave the law, is the judge.⁹ Where man's decisions are based on the physical senses and so often influenced by the enemy's responses, God's judgment is righteous.¹⁰ He alone judges according to truth.

In the end, we are NOT qualified to judge. Judgment is simply not our job! Our job is to love our enemy! Therefore, wouldn't it be wise to step aside and let God reign and rule? I believe so!

¹G3049, Strong's, e-sword ²CEV ³MSG ⁴AMP ⁵Webster's, e-sword ⁶Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary ©1959 ⁷Rm 12:21 ⁸Mt 7:12, author's paraphrase ⁹Jas 4:12 ¹⁰Jn 7:24

Merry Christmas!

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own eye? (Mt 7:3)

I had this thought the other day when hearing a sermon that was just okay from a speaker I neither like nor dislike. The Lord spoke four words in my heart. "Seek Me. Not him."

There is our solution. **We seek God**, His wisdom, His love, His forgiveness, His mercy, so that we can share it with others, so that we can be more like Him. (Mt 6:33) So that pressed to the wall, backed in a corner, squeezed too hard what comes out is what Jesus would say, the words of the Holy Spirit, the heart of the Father.

And in so doing, we relieve ourselves of half the pressure we feel. We let God tend to him and her. We let God be the one who corrects their behavior. He convicts. He draws. He corrects. (Pr 3:12; 2Ti 3:16)

Not me. And not you.

Plus, now I have hours and hours of my day free to do other things. In fact, I have time to pray for that person. I could extend to them the mercy I expect them to extend to me. You know, I think that's what God wanted me to do in the first place.