Love does not think evil

1 Corinthians 13:5

Breaking the Ice:

Even though we use the phrase "let it go" all the time is it hard for you to do so? Why is that the case? What advice can you give to others who need to "let it go?"

For Reflection:

thinketh no evil—*imputeth not evil [Alford]; literally, "the evil" which actually is there (Pr 10:12; 1 Pe 4:8). Love makes allowances for the falls of others, and is ready to put on them a charitable construction. Love, so far from devising evil against another, excuses "the evil" which another inflicts on her [Estius]; doth not meditate upon evil inflicted by another [Bengel]; and in doubtful cases, takes the more charitable view [Grotius].* --Fausset and Brown

Definition: Think no evil (resentful)

οὐλογιζεταιτοκακον- *oulogizetai to kakon*

Taketh not account of evil; Old verb from *logos*, to count up, to take account of as in a ledger or notebook, "the evil" done to love with a view to settling the account.[1] Does not keep score and seek revenge or harbor a grudge.

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[1] Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (1 Co 13:5). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

There are various ways of translating this phrase- "keeps no record of wrongs" (NIV) and "resentful" (ESV) are two such attempts. The root meaning seems to be that when one loves another he chooses to not keep a record of evil that is done by another. We are not to keep score, to harbor ill feelings, or seek or even imagine revenge. We truly are to "let it go" with God's help– JPW

Why is it so hard to let others off the hook when we perceive that they have done evil to us?

Read: *Matthew 18:21-35*

What did the unforgiving servant fail to realize?

How does this parable help us understand the true basis of our forgiving others?

Response:

Who do you need to "let go" in your mind and heart? Pray for God's help to end your "score keeping" with this person.

Bottom Line:

Forgive others on the basis that God has forgiven you.