

Love forgives and forgets. Lev. 19:18 tells us, "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." It is said of the African buffalo that if wounded, it will relentlessly track down the one who wounded him and kill him. He doesn't give up until he makes amends for the hurt he suffered. For this reason, he is one of the most dangerous game animals in that continent.

Some people react the same way to hurts suffered in interpersonal conflict. They maliciously stalk their opponent until the opportunity arises for revenge and then they strike. In contrast, love forsakes all bitterness and malice, (Eph. 4:29ff) knowing that such displeases the Lord and grieves His Spirit.

It can be seen from this review of Lev. 19:9-18 that love is something a believer, filled with God's Spirit, can train himself to do. There is no mention of "feelings" in this passage, although there are strong emotions that are connected to, and flow from the things that are to be forsaken and the things that are to be done. Below is a check list that could be used for self-examination by those engaged in a team ministry.

1. Have I given thought and energy to meeting the needs of my associates? (List your fellow team members and those needs you are aware of that you could help to meet.)

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