

## I. What is a Grudge?

1. Grudge is defined as “a feeling of deep-seated resentment or ill will” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
  - a. Some synonyms for grudge include malice, despite, ill will, malevolence, maliciousness, malignancy, malignity, spite, spitefulness, and spleen (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Thesaurus).
  - b. Some related words for grudge include grievance, injury, and injustice (Ibid).
2. Malice is defined as “desire to cause pain, injury, or distress to another” or “intent to commit an unlawful act or cause harm without legal justification or excuse” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
3. Some distinctions between “grudge” and “malice” (Ibid):
  - a. **Grudge** means the desire to see another experience pain, injury, or distress or implies a harbored feeling of resentment or ill will that seeks satisfaction 〈never one to harbor a *grudge*〉 .
  - b. **Malice** implies a deep-seated often unexplainable desire to see another suffer 〈felt no *malice* toward their former enemies〉 .
4. The Greek word which encapsulates these meanings is *kakia* (G2549 noun).
  - a. This word is found eleven times in the New Testament.
  - b. There are three senses of the Greek word *kakia* in the New Testament (BDAG 500):
    - i. **the quality or state of wickedness, baseness, depravity, wickedness, vice.** κ. is the opposite of ἀρετή and all virtue and therefore lacking in social value.
    - ii. **a mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition, malice, ill-will, malignity.**
    - iii. **a state involving difficult circumstances, trouble, misfortune.**

## II. Getting Rid of the Grudge

1. To be in love with the Lord requires that the old man be put off ([Eph. 4:22](#)).
  - a. Observe the word “former” which is a time word indicating “before” or “prior.”

- b. That...put off (*apotithemi* G659 verb) trop. those things are said to be put off or away which any one gives up, renounces (Thayer 69).
  - c. conversation (*anastrophe* G391 noun) = manner of life (ASV).
  - d. old (*palaios* G3820 adjective) **pert. to that which is obsolete or inferior because of being old, old, obsolete** (BDAG 751).
  - e. which is corrupt (*ho* G3588 definite article *phtheiro* G5351 verb) **to cause deterioration of the inner life, ruin, corrupt** (BDAG 1054).
  - f. deceitful (*ho* G3588 definite article *apate* G539 noun) “deception, seduction, trickery” (Spicq 153).
- 2. To be in love with the Lord requires malice to be put off ([Eph. 4:31](#)).
    - a. Malice is listed with other sinful behaviors including bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking.
    - b. All of these things can be easily seen within the idea of “bearing a grudge.”
    - c. It necessarily follows that **all** of these behaviors must be put away or removed.
  - 3. To get rid of the grudge means I must truly be in love with the Lord.
    - a. Each member of the church is a part of His body ([1 Cor. 12:14-27](#)).
    - b. Each member of the church must have biblical love ([1 Cor. 13:4-7](#)).
    - c. We must forgive one another when wronged and repented of ([Lk. 17:3-4](#)).

### III. Keeping Rid of Grudges

- 1. The void of not bearing a grudge must be filled with the Word of God ([Jm. 1:21](#); [1 Pt. 2:1-3](#); [1 Cor. 14:20](#)).
  - a. ([Jm. 1:21](#)): of naughtiness (*kakia* G2549 noun) translated as “malice” six times in the New Testament.
  - b. ([1 Cor. 14:20](#)): we need more **mature** Christians in mind and less **immature** in mind grudge holders!
- 2. Instead of being a servant to a grudge, be a servant of God ([1 Pt. 2:15-16](#)).
  - a. We have plenty of work to do for the Lord which should leave us with no time to hold a grudge.
  - b. Remember, our labor is not in vain for the Lord ([1 Cor. 15:58](#)).