LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS
1 Corinthians 13:4,5

Introduction: 1) King James translation and the ESV translation, you will see why the ESV translated it resentment by the time we are done today 2) The reality of life is that everyone is wronged by someone but in this passage it is talking about how a Christian responds when wronged by someone either through actions or words. 3) This passage gives the negative or what a Christian does not do when they are wronged by someone 4) What does it mean love does not keep a record of wrongs or is not resentful.

I. What the text does not mean
   A. It does not mean we must pretend that we were not wronged (forgive and forget theory)
   B. It does not mean we cannot remember evil done against us or refuse to trust such a person who has proven themselves untrustworthy - 2 Timothy 4:14,15 (Paul was not guilty of keeping a record of wrong, notice Paul leaves the repayment of such evil to God, this is easier to do when we remember that the sin was more against God then yourself, we always sin against God when we sin against others)
   C. It is impossible on a practical level to forgive and forget

II. What the text does mean
   A. The term in the text is an accounting term and the accounting is for the purpose of seeing that the debt is paid in full and is used to determine future responses to such an individual who owes the debt (this is why companies and banks use credit reporting agencies)
   B. This is how this term is used in some very important passages of Scriptures - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 4:8; 8:1; 5:9,10; Hebrews 12:5,6 (God has credited our sins to Jesus and credits the righteousness of Christ to us thus our sins are no longer on God’s ledger, we are not considered by God to have sinned against him, we have no sin debt, and God uses this accounting fact to determine how he will treat us in the future, God does not consider our sins in how he
will feel about us and treat us, he will always treat us with love, never with condemnation or wrath.

C. To keep a record of wrong then is to keep the wrong in the forefront of your mind with the desire to make sure that wrongdoer pays for their wrong (this person has no intention of really forgiving, they want nothing but punishment, they often withhold any hope of reconciliation with the wrongdoer, even if the wrongdoer repents and asks for forgiveness)

D. This keeping record of wrongs is closely associated with the previous exhortation that love is not easily provoked into anger (keeping a record of wrongs creates an attitude which is easily angered when they come into contact with the wrongdoer, this happened to Moses)

E. The reason a person keeps a record of wrongs is because they have lost all sense of love (good will) towards the wrongdoer. There is no desire for forgiveness or reconciliation. Revenge is the ulterior motive - Zechariah 8:17

III. Practical Applications

A. If you are the wrongdoer you will discover that a person who keeps a record of wrongs is someone you cannot possibly win with. You should repent and ask for forgiveness but know it will be used as a weapon against you. This is because the record keeper of wrongdoings problem is they think of themselves as better than others. (Lord’s prayer, forgive us our debts as we forgive those who are our debtors)

B. If you are the wronged person you will never have any problems with keeping records of wrongs if you always seek and desire reconciliation with any wrongdoers (if they won’t repent, then just turn them over to the Lord)

C. If a person you once were close to seems to be at a distance it is likely because they are keeping a record of your wrongs

D. Finally, learn this important truth. You cannot cure a wrongdoer by drinking poison yourself. (a record keeper of wrongdoing is always filled with bitterness in their emotions, they keep the pain of the wrongdoing fresh because they want to make sure that
wrong is paid for, this only hurts yourself and almost never the wrongdoer)

E. To keep bitterness out of your heart always make sure wrongdoing goes to the back of your mind instead of remaining in the front, do this as quickly as possible (do not let the sun go down on your wrath, bitter people rarely look happy, it is because the thought of the wrongdoer stays in the forefront of their mind, often for years, this has been a difficult sermon for me to study and write, many people have inflicted me with severe painful emotions over my lifetime, including many people who claim to love God, and I find that my sinful nature sometimes will try to push the memories of those pains from the back of my mind into the forefront of my mind making what is past become present again. Only thing that saves me from this is that I think about how much Christ loves me and how much he forgave me for and that he never ever has those sins in the forefront of his mind, can I do less if I want to be like Christ)

Conclusion: 1) If we are to be like Christ we must be careful not to be people who keep a record of wrongs. Let us be compassionate, merciful, and forgiving as Christ was to us. 2) Even while we were sinners, unrepentant people, Christ died for us because it says he loved us. Helping others to get their sins taken care of with the Lord can sometime bring us pain, especially when they were the one’s who brought us the pain. Christ did it with Peter and you know Christ never mentioned it to him again. Aren’t you glad the Lord does not keep a record of your wrongs? Well, that is only true if you have faith in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross otherwise he will never forget your sins and will one day hold them against you. Wouldn’t you rather have God forget them? not hold them against you? God can do that because Jesus received my punishment on the cross.