

1 ☐ **“The *Poison* of Bitterness”**

Hebrews 12:15

Deuteronomy 29:18

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- Bitterness is related to anger and demonstrates a great dissatisfaction with God’s sovereignty in your life.

5 ☐ **3. Bitterness is a type of revenge.**

6 ☐ **4. Bitterness is sin.**

- 2 ☐ • “Sin is no longer your master...” Rom. 6:14a

7 ☐ **A conflict we want to hold on to.**

8 ☐ **B. Unbiblical Ways of Dealing with Bitterness**

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10 ☐ **2. Slow Seething**

11 ☐ **3. Gossip\Slender**

12 ☐ **Catharsis**

13 ☐ **5. Self-Righteousness**

14 ☐ **C. Bible Examples of Bitterness**

15 ☐ **1. Jonah 4:9 (NASB)**

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Then God said to Jonah, “Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?”
And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.”

16 ☐ **2. Naomi**

2 ☐ “...Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD himself has caused me to suffer.”

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18 ☐ **II. Scripture describes Bitterness as Poison.**

19 ☐ **A. How Bitterness becomes a Personal Poison.**

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1. Bitterness is what we feel when we perceive another person sins against us or we believe that God is dealing with us unfairly.

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3. The severity of bitterness is based on sin that somehow relates to you personally.

23 ☐

B. Scripture

24 ☐

Bitterness is a bitter taste that defiles many.

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Hebrews 12:15 (NKJV)

... looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled

2

Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)

Look after each other so that none of you will miss out on the special favor of God. Watch out that no bitter root of unbelief rises up among you, for whenever it springs up, many are corrupted by its poison.

25 ☐

Deuteronomy 29:18 (NKJV)

“... so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood”

26 ☐

3. Other Consequences of Bitterness

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• **Unresolved conflict gives a place to the devil.**

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• **God’s name is blasphemed.**

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Bitterness is an indication that we may not be saved.

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• **“A lifetime of shallow hard heartedness and unforgiveness reveals a life has never been truly born again by the Spirit of God...”**

--P. James MacDonald--

29 ☐

C. How Can You Tell if You are Bitter?

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1. Do I mull over the details of past offenses by others?

2. Do I bring up past offenses (as weapons) to those I have chosen to forgive?

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3. Do I gossip about how others have hurt me?

4. Do I desire revenge against those who hurt me?

5. Am I quick to lovingly confront those who sin against me?

30 ☐ C. How Can You Tell if You are Bitter?

- ☐ 1 6. Do I view the sins of others in the light of God's mercy on me?
7. Am I easily offended by others?
8. Do I frequently think about past offenses against me or how life is unfair to me?
- ☐ 2 9. Do I diligently seek to get along with those who have hurt me in the past?
10. Am I quick to forgive?

31 ☐ III. Steps to Forgiveness

32 ☐ A. Recognize that Bitterness is a Heart Problem

- ☐ 1 For we are each responsible for our own conduct. (Gal.6:5)
☐ 2 So our aim is to please him [Christ]... 2 Cor.5:9a

Taking every thought captive... 2 Cor. 10:5

33 ☐

B. Recognize that God expects us to change and change is possible.
Eph. 4:22-24;
Col. 3:12-14

34 ☐ C. Practice Forgiveness from the heart (Matt. 18:21-35)

- ☐ 2 • *"We harbor no ill will."*

--Bruce Goodrich--