

Make sure that no one misses out on God's wonderful kindness. Don't let anyone become bitter and cause trouble for the rest of you.

Hebrews 12:15 (CEV)

Some questions about bitterness

1. How does bitterness come?

- Someone _____
- You think someone _____
- Someone has _____

*...if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. **James 3:14 (NLT)***

2. Who is usually the object of my bitterness?

3. Who is responsible for my bitterness?

*...a man's heart determines his speech. A good man's speech reveals the rich treasures within him. An evil-hearted man is filled with venom, and his speech reveals it. **Matthew 12:34-35 (TLB)***

4. How do I deal with bitterness? *Ephesians 4:25-32*

- Be _____ about it

*Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. **Ephesians 4:25 (NIV)***

- Don't use _____ to justify it

*In your anger do not sin. **Ephesians 4:26a (NIV)***

- Deal with it _____

*Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **Ephesians 4:26b (NIV)***

- Don't give _____ room to _____

*...and do not give the devil a foothold. **Ephesians 4:27 (NIV)***

*A further reason for forgiveness is to keep from being outsmarted by Satan, for we know what he is trying to do. **2 Corinthians 2:11 (TLB)***

After all, we don't want to unwittingly give Satan an opening for yet more mischief—we're not oblivious to his sly ways!

2 Corinthians 2:11 (TMSG)

5. How do I know if I'm bitter?

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)***

6. How does God feel about bitterness?

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:30 (NIV)***

7. What happens when bitterness spreads?

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **Ephesians 4:31 (NIV)***

*See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. **Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)***

8. How do I dig up the root of bitterness?

- An _____ action - Be _____

*Be kind... **Ephesians 4:32a (NIV)***

- An _____ action - Be _____

*...and (be) compassionate to one another, **Ephesians 4:32b (NIV)***

- An _____ action - Be _____

*...forgiving each other... **Ephesians 4:32c (NIV)***

*... just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:32d (NIV)***

9. Do I have to be reconciled to someone who has hurt me?

- Reconciliation is conditional on two things:

– _____ and _____

Hebrews 12:15 (CEV) ¹⁵Make sure that no one misses out on God's wonderful kindness. Don't let anyone become bitter and cause trouble for the rest of you.

Some questions about bitterness

1. How does bitterness come?

- Someone sins against you
- You think someone sins against you
- Someone has more than you

James 3:14 (NLT) ¹⁴...if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.

2. Who is usually the object of my bitterness?

3. Who is responsible for my bitterness?

Matthew 12:34 - 35 (TLB) ...a man's heart determines his speech. ³⁵A good man's speech reveals the rich treasures within him. An evil-hearted man is filled with venom, and his speech reveals it.

4. How do I deal with bitterness? *Eph 4:25-32*

- Be honest about it

Ephesians 4:25 (NIV) ²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

- Don't use anger to justify it

Ephesians 4:26a (NIV) ²⁶"In your anger do not sin"

- Deal with it quickly

Ephesians 4:26b (NIV) Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

- Don't give the devil room to operate

Ephesians 4:27 (NIV) ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (TLB) ¹¹A further reason for forgiveness is to keep from being outsmarted by Satan, for we know what he is trying to do.

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Hebrews 12:15 (NIV) ¹⁵See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

8. How do I dig up the root of bitterness?

- An outward action - Be kind

Ephesians 4:32a (NIV) ³²Be kind...

- An inward action - Be compassionate

Ephesians 4:32b (NIV) ...and (be) compassionate to one another,

- An upward action - Be forgiving

Ephesians 4:32c (NIV) ... forgiving each other...

Ephesians 4:32d (NIV) ... just as in Christ God forgave you.

9. Do I have to be reconciled to someone who has hurt me?

- Reconciliation is conditional on two things:

– Forgiveness and repentance