

Doctrine of Bitterness

1. There are many matters to become bitter about. Money issues can be the root of great bitterness as people have different ideas of who should get what and how money should be spent. When Esau discovered that his father had given the family blessing to Jacob, he screamed with a bitter cry over his loss.
 - *Genesis 27:34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.*

2. Social injustice leads to resentment and bitterness. The lives of the Jews in Egypt were made bitter with hard work.
 - *Exodus 1:14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigor.*

3. God is aware of those experiences in life that can leave the soul bitter. Often He is moved to show mercy.
 - *2 King 14:26 For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.*

4. A bitter spirit will lead to bitter words. Sometimes, the innocent are the object of bitter words.
 - *Job 13:26 For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.*
 - *Psalms 64:3 Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words.*

5. A bitter spirit will only lead to more bitter experience in life unless this emotional disorientation of the soul is brought into captivity for Christ. What a person sows they will reap. In the area of immorality the writer of Proverbs saw the end of loose living for both men and women.
 - *Proverbs 5:4 "But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.*
 - *Ecclesiastes 7:26 And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.*

6. Sin is essentially a very bitter experience. Sometimes people think God is punishing them in a personal way when the reality is that the natural consequence of evil is punishment enough.

- *Jeremiah 2:19 Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.*
- *Jeremiah 4:18 Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.*

7. Christian husbands are warned not to become bitter with their wives.

- *Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.*

8. The tongue is to be guarded so that it does not try and produce both sweet and bitter words for that cannot be done.

- *James 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

The rhetorical question demands a negative answer. No matter how hard a person may try to be sweet or silent if there is bitterness in the heart over some issue it will surface and find expression.

9. The person who has bitterness in the heart should not be proud of that fact.

- *James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.*

10. All bitterness in the heart of the believer is to be put away and not ventilated.

- *Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.*

11. A person knows if there is bitterness in the heart. .

- *Proverbs 14:10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.*

12. If bitterness is allowed to remain in the heart and is not arrested and dismissed it will spring up and defile many.

- *Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.*

13. Ironically the word of truth can be very bitter.

- *Revelation 10:9, 10 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10:10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.*

14. The only way to make the *Word of Truth* sweet again is to redirect the thoughts so they are godly thoughts and consistent with the mind of Christ and reflect the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness and meekness.