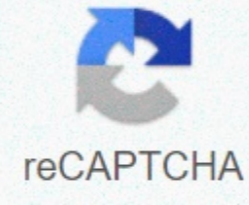




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Root of bitterness meaning

(Click to listen to an audio recording of this article, read by the author: Am I a bitter person?) Check out the Live the Gospel podcast episode based on this article! You won't find many people who gladly describe themselves as bitter. From our point of view, our bitterness or dissatisfaction is always entirely justified. It wasn't fair, we support ourselves. This is the moment when the root of bitterness is planted: when we feel we do not get what we deserve. When we feel mistreated. Make no mistake, bitterness is a sin. (James 3:14-16.) It is a pity that it has broken marriages, friendships and prevented many people from finding peace and rest in their Christian life. What does bitter mean? Pursue peace with all peoples and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully so that no one is below God's grace; to prevent any root of bitterness that pops up to cause problems, and from this many become contaminated. Jews 12:14-15. This verse helps us understand the danger behind bitterness. It is not a simple, innocent or meaningless thing to be bitter – bitterness is a root that grows in division, accusation and even hatred. If bitterness has had the opportunity to take root in our hearts, it feeds every time we agree with the spiteful thoughts that come out of our flesh. If everything goes against God's will and His laws. To commit sin is to transgress or disobey these laws. The desire to sin dwells in human nature. In other words, it is contaminated and motivated by sin Over time, bitterness can flourish in our hearts, consuming every care, love and sweetness that existed there before. This will eventually come out in our actions. (Proverbs 4:23.) Our words become razor sharp. Cold. Hostile. After many months or years, we may not even remember exactly why we became bitter in the first place – all that remains is the sting of prosecution and hatred. Many people today let bitterness rule in their hearts. But there is a way to get rid of bitter and accusatory thoughts! We don't need to keep holding grudges year after year because of perceived wrongs that have happened to us. Overcoming the root of bitterness is only after recognizing the sinful tendencies that are part of our nature that we can begin to embark on a battle against them. That's why a person who justifies or apologizes for their grudges, animosity, envy or chipped shoulders will never become free from their bitterness. This person is feeding his flesh - yielding to their hidden desire to protect their honor above all else. This attitude is of the contrary to the way we should live as Christians. Philip 2:21 gives us a warning about this: For all seek your own, not the things that are of Christ Jesus. In the moments when we are to be bitter, then we must rely completely on the Holy Ghost to show us the truth about ourselves. Without the Holy Ghost as a guide, we quickly become satisfied with ourselves and begin to manage situations with our knowledge, which only leads us to re-use old habits. Because if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if for the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13. When we cry in need, the Holy Spirit will be there to reveal our failings; that it is not others who need change, but there is something in ourselves that needs to be put to death. Then we can begin to truly recognize our demands and tendencies towards bitterness as the sin that it is. And the Spirit will also give us the power to overcome. We must acknowledge the bitterness for what it is and then make a firm decision to hate it with perfect hatred! How can we hate the sin of bitterness? Seeing the damage it causes! Bitterness can never accumulate or build up. It is simply impossible for bitterness to produce peace, joy, love and rest. Let all the bitterness, anger, anger, clamor and evil speak be put away from you, with all the malice. Ephesians 4:31. Put an end to destructive thoughts! It costs something to end the bitterness in our lives. It means that we must give up our pride and instead go on the path of humility. Our flesh hates to suffer, but this does not need to stop us! Instead, we can arm ourselves with Christ's mind and do God's will. (1 Peter 4:1-2.) We must find the bitterness that dwells in us and tear it from the root! We must rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. Choose to pursue love and all that comes with it. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8.) It is a decision that we have to make over and over again in our daily life relationships. Whatever happens to us, we choose love and goodness over bitterness and sin. Yes, the temptation to be bitter will come again, but bitterness can only harm us if we agree with this temptation. Instead, we can take a firm and decisive stand against division, envy and sin. When we make this decision to give up our pride and esteem others higher than ourselves, then it is simply no longer possible to be bitter. Whether nothing is done through selfish ambition or presumption, but in low mentality that everyone esteems others better than him. Philippi 2:3. Every human being lives the struggle of existence in a world marred by sin. We are all dealing with our human weaknesses, disappointments, trials and also with the injustices and offenses caused by others. It is important as believers to maintain the right perspective towards these in relation to our understanding of God and his relationship with His children. We must be careful not to fall into the trap trap believe that other believers appear free from difficulty and that God has put us in search of unjust punishments. The level of affliction may vary from one person to another depending on God's purposes for their lives; but all the true children of God will experience the chastisement of the Lord which will be grave to them at that time (Hebrews 12:8). However, struggle with difficulty, if rightly accepted, can be used by God to stimulate personal growth (Hebrews 12:11). If our perspective on difficulty differs from what God has in mind, we can easily become bitter against God for what He designs or allows in our lives. God asks us to look diligently so as not to give birth to a root of bitterness in our lives. We will study the Jews 12:14-17 in order to identify some principles on how to deal with pain and suffering and avoid the tragedy of being overwhelmed by bitterness. 1. Follow peace with men and holiness with God. Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). In this sentence we are given the attention that we must keep in moments of suffering, following peace and holiness. As we will see, this admonition is given in the context of the mind. This command is indicated in strong language. Without pursuing peace and holiness, no man will see the Lord. The term no man indicates that there are no exceptions to this requirement. When we fight, we are often tempted to think that we are somehow a special case, or that our injuries justify irresponsible action. The penalty of not following peace and holiness is excluded from the Presence of the Lord. Since this command is given in the context of suffering and bitterness, God meant that these two goals were at the center of believers when they are in the midst of a profound trial. It is not that believers are never below or even commit serious sins when they are under tremendous tension, but rather that they must remain committed to peace and holiness in order to be recovered from God's grace. By grace through faith we must follow peace and holiness. It is difficult to follow peace with others when we think we have been treated unfairly. Suffering from the wrongs perceived against us sharpens our emotions and tends to bitter our spirit. Yielding to bitterness or resentment is contrary to the command to pursue peace with all men. The term all men means that our search for peace must also be extended to offenders. One of the key components of pursuing peace with others is choosing to forgive offenses and show a spirit of forgiveness in speech and relationships. Together with the search for peace with others there is the holiness towards the Lord. God invites us to follow holiness in the midst of trial, to mortify our fleshly answers. We must accept the god in what He has chosen for us to endure and be

