

Bitterness

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Main Verse: [Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

PTSD of the Christian Life — Series

Weeding the Garden of Bitterness

Pastor Brent Snook · October 11, 2026 · AM Service

Text: [Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 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." — [Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

I. THE **CAUTION** OF BITTERNESS — "Looking Diligently"

II. THE **CHARACTER** OF BITTERNESS

A. A **Hidden** Problem — "Lest any root of bitterness"

"The moment I start hating a man I become his slave. I can't enjoy my work anymore because he even controls my thoughts... I really must acknowledge the fact that I am a slave to every man on whom I pour the vials of my wrath." — Dr. S.I. McMillan

Hating people is like burning down your house to get rid of a rat.

B. A **Growing** Problem — "Springing up"

Bitterness is not born overnight. It grows as anger goes unresolved and becomes wrath. A root of bitterness gives place to the devil — he gets a toehold, then a foot in the door, then both legs. Left unchecked, it will spread like wildfire.

III. THE **CONSEQUENCES** OF BITTERNESS — v. 15

Bitterness reveals itself in a person who is negative, critical, resentful, angry, and full of animosity — in churches, workplaces, and homes.

A. Individual Consequences

1. Loss of **Joy**

Bitterness will do 3 things: 1. Poison your worship 2. Paralyze your work 3. Pollute your witness

"I am determined never to permit a man to degrade my soul by making me hate him." — Booker T. Washington

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." — [Ephesians 4:31](#)

2. Loss of **Forgiveness**

Definition of Forgiveness: A decision to release a person from the obligation that resulted when they injured you.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." — [Matthew 6:14-15](#)

3 Things Forgiveness Is Not:

1. Forgiveness is not **Enabling** — forgiving someone doesn't mean handing them your credit card
2. Forgiveness is not **Rescuing** — forgiveness doesn't mean eliminating consequences for bad behavior
3. Forgiveness is not **Risking** — forgiveness doesn't mean placing yourself back in a harmful situation

"Let us go to Calvary to learn how we may be forgiven. Then let us linger there to learn how to forgive." — Charles Spurgeon

B. Influential Consequences — "...many be defiled"

Bitterness not only poisons you — it infects those around you.

IV. THE CURE OF BITTERNESS

- A. Recognize It
- B. Remove It
- C. Replace It

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness." — [Hebrews 12:14](#).

— Root Out the Bitterness and Watch God Work —

"He drew a circle and shut me out — Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout; But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle that took him in." — Edwin Markham

Personal Takeaways

Enter any thoughts about today's message.