

Roots and Fruit “Bitter Roots Defile”

The fruit of a “bitter root” can be manifest in many different fruits:

- addiction
- pornography
- lust
- immorality
- anger
- un-forgiveness
- resentment
- hate
- envy
- jealousy

Much fruit can be caused by this one root.

Hebrews chapter 12:14-16 “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **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;** lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.”

1. Bitter roots deceive.

We can't see clearly; we're deceived when we have a bitter root.

2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

satan, in his craftiness whispered to Adam and Eve: “God doesn’t want you to know what He knows. God isn't doing something for you that He should be doing. God's holding out on you. He's trying to get Eve to be bitter toward God.

The original sin is not from Adam and Eve.

Satan sinned before Adam and Eve ever sinned and he's the author of all sin.

The original sin in satan was **a root of bitterness toward God.**

Isaiah 14 talks about how Satan fell. He wanted to be like God. He felt God was holding out on him and he developed a root of bitterness.

All sin goes back to root of bitterness toward God.

We fall short of the grace of God and there are two extremes:

1. Lasciviousness

Lasciviousness means evil and evil living. For us it means when we fall short of the grace of God.

For believers or unbelievers, it means we think we can live any way we want and there will be no consequences.

Hebrews 12:14 “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will **see** the Lord:”

The word **see** doesn't just mean **to look** it means “**to see in person.**”

Without holiness you'll never be in the presence of God.

We receive holiness by grace through faith but we also are to walk holy.

2. **Legalism**

We try to earn our relationship with God. We try to do something.

Galatians 3:1 - who's **bewitched** [fascinated you with false impressions] you; who has deceived you?

Bewitch means to deceive with magic. Magic is a deception - look over there while I do something over here.

- There is a prosperity gospel that's wrong; but there's also a poverty gospel that's wrong.
- The prosperity gospel and the poverty gospel neither are gospel; neither are Good News.
- What God does is not prosperity or poverty - it's the **Provision gospel**.
- God wants to provide for you so you can be a blessing to others as well.

2. **Bitter roots defile.**

Hebrews 12:15 “Lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this **many** become defiled;”

Defiled means in the Greek “**stained**; actually means **to dye** - but **to dye with another color.**”

It's the blood of Jesus that cleanses every stain.

Genesis 25:29-34 “Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same **red stew**, for I am weary.” Therefore, his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.” And Esau said, “Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?” Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. **Thus Esau despised his birthright.**

- Another way to say that is he didn't value it. He gave it up for a bowl of stew, the birthright which is twice the inheritance.
- Genesis 25:34 Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils then he ate.
- Genesis 3:6 (Eve) she also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
- All four of these people believed the lie about God that there was something that God was not:
 - Jacob believed that God was holding out on him because he didn't have the blessing, the birthright that Esau had.
 - Esau believed that that God was holding out on him because Jacob seemed to be the favorite child.
 - Eve believed God was holding out on to her.
 - Adam believed God was holding out on him.

They all believed the root of bitterness.

Esau is continually trying to get back at his father and Jacob.
The root of resentment became set in his life:

Genesis 28:6 “Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,” and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram. Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.”

- Resentment many times isn't as much toward the person as it is toward God.
“Because why didn't God stop this? Why did God allow me to go through this? God didn't cause it but He could have stopped it?”

Is it hard when someone does you wrong and then God blesses them?
You say, “Well why would God bless someone who did me wrong?”
Same reason God blesses you when you did others wrong, because he's a merciful God.

- Sovereign doesn't mean that God can do anything he wants to.
- It means that God is the supreme ruler of the universe.
- But God can never act outside of his character.
- God is Sovereign but He decided he didn't want robots so he gave us a will.

- He created us in his image in his likeness and because we have a will we've messed it all up and because we've messed it all up there's now sin in the world and there's death and there's sickness and consequences for our bad choices.
- When we say that God could have done something, no He couldn't because He decided to let us make choices.
- Things happen in our lives because we live in a fallen world and if we're not careful that line of thinking causes a root of bitterness toward God and that root of bitterness is sin.

Romans 7:8 “But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.”

When the children Israel were going through the wilderness they came to some springs of water. The water was bitter so they named the place **Marah**. God told Moses, “You see that tree over there? Take that tree and throw it in the water”, and Moses did. The water, became sweet. Our assumption is that he cut down the tree but that never says he cut down the tree. He said throw the tree. What's part of the tree? The roots. This is symbolizing Jesus as the root. You bring Jesus into the spring of your life and He can change the water of your life from sour and bitter to sweet.

You've got to bring Jesus in.

3. **Bitter roots depress.**

Hebrews 12:16 “Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.”

Profane means a worldly person or person driven by appetite.
Appetite for lust, appetite for greed.

Deuteronomy 28 is referred to as the blessings and curses chapter because it says God says if you obey Me all these blessings will come on you

- Blessed shall you be in the city
- Blessed shall you be in the country
- Blessed shall be the fruit of your body
- Blessed should be the work of your hands
- Blessed shall you be coming in and
- Blessed shall you be going out

Then He says if you don't obey me these curses will come upon you:

- Cursed shall you be in the city
- Cursed shall you be in the field

The word **cursed** - is **consequences**.

- What God is saying is He's not trying to make us feel bad or curse us He's saying if you follow Me these good consequences are going to happen in your life.
- If you don't follow My ways, these bad consequences going to happen.

Deuteronomy 29:18 “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;**”

Wormwood is a bitter root that when it's around water it causes the water to be bitter; not good water to drink.

Scriptures on wormwood:

- Revelation 8:10-11 “Then the third angel sounded: And a great star [fallen angel] fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is **Wormwood**. A third of the waters became **wormwood**, and many men died from the water, because it was made **bitter**.
- Jeremiah 9:15 “Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will feed them, this people, with **wormwood**, and give them water of **gall** [bitterness] to drink. Because of their rebellion.
- Psalms 69:21 “They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.
- Matthew 27: 34 “They gave Him sour wine mingled with **gall** to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.
- Jesus being tempted with all temptations, was tempted with bitterness, but He didn't drink it.

We are all going to taste bitterness – but it's your choice if you drink it!

What if the person that hurt you - you went to them and you asked for forgiveness but the person that hurt you, they are never going to ask you for forgiveness?

What do you do?

You do what Jesus did.

It's possible that when they gave Him gall, they tried to get Him to be bitter, that this was the last temptation of Christ.

Jesus not only did not drink it but He said, "Father, forgive them."

They didn't ask His forgiveness but He made a choice to forgive and not be bitter.

You have that same choice.

So today, What will your choice be?