

# better together.

---

## Better Together: Bitter No More – Pastor Mark Pope March 23 & 24, 2019

1. Pastor Mark made the comment, “Bitterness and anger is all around us and is becoming more prevalent”. Do you agree with this statement? Why do you think this way?
2. Pastor Mark said the farmer’s statement of “It happens every day” offended him. Can you think of an instance when you have been offended in a like manner? How about an instance when you acted like the farmer and offended someone else?
3. Read Ephesians 4:25-27  
Paul warns the leader to “not give the devil a foothold”. What do you think he means by that? How does anger create a foothold? Can you share a personal example?
4. Pastor Mark’s first key to living a bitterless life requires “some real work”. He identified 4 tips and an encouragement to reduce conflict. Read each of the verses Pastor Mark linked to his point.
  - 1) Be first to apologize (Matthew 18:15)
  - 2) Move Fast (Ephesians 4:26-27)
  - 3) Speak Softly (Proverbs 15:1)
  - 4) Stay Humble (Ephesians 4:32)
  - 5) Never Give Up

Which of these 5 “tips” are the easiest for you to implement? Which will be the most “work” for you?

5. Pastor Mark’s second key to living a bitterless life it requires “forward thinking” and to have a better future, we must address our bitterness now. Have you ever seen this principle successfully applied in your life?
6. Pastor Mark said the tips above “takes work”, but it is less work than working through a bigger relationship mess. Have you ever experienced a “big mess” that could have been less messy if it had been addressed earlier? Please share.
7. After listening to Mark’s message on bitterness, is there any benefit at all for a Christian to be bitter? If not, then why do we justify it?
8. Do you hold any bitterness against anyone? If so, share with the group your plan to deal with the problem.