

# For the Love of the Family Ministries

Missionaries to America's Forgotten Mission Field, the Family  
Keeping the Root of Bitterness From Springing Up In Your Life

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elp Christians in the rearing of and their marriage. They are not a der must be on any copy. If you author.

Hebrews 12:14-17, "Follow peace with all men, and shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thus be a fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place to carefully with tears."

oliness, without which no man n fail of the grace of God; lest any ere by many be defiled; Lest there for one morsel of meat sold his ewould have inherited the frepentance, though he sought it

Many years ago, I heard the story of a town in Wales coal coming from mines. This black powder literally they did this. In October 1966, at this town of Abernethy. Around noon, that mountain of coal started to move. million tons of coal and mud fell on the town. Rig elementary school. Two hundred and fifty students

s wherein in 1866 they began to pile up y became a mountain. For 100 years erdeen it had drained for several weeks. The way I understand it, over two ht below this mountain of coal was an were killed that day.

Folks, do you know that many Christians today are in the elementary school? The reason is they have all life. You know people and so do I, who are not so bitter. They are miserable in their life. 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".

n just as much trouble and danger as owed a mountain of bitterness in their ving God today because they are erness springing up trouble you,

Did you notice **"thereby many be defiled"**? Bitterness in your life will affect others around you. It will infect them from your life and affect their children or spouse and it can even go members and friends. Do you know what bitterness in your flesh to control your life. Folks, have you ever noticed that people can be extremely cruel church Pastor who had had a heart attack because of

testimony. A bitter husband or wife further than that to other family s? It is nothing more than allowing vernoticed that life is not fair? Have ? Several years ago, I heard about a the cruelty of some folks within his

church. While he was fighting for his life in the hospital, some of the church members gott together and sought to vote him out of the church. The underlying problem of that group was bitterness and it defiled many.

hospital, some of the church members ch. The underlying problem of that

Many people are bitter today because they have been hurt, something did not go like they wanted it to. They were hurt at church, a job did not go like they wanted it to, their marriage is failing, they do not have the home they want or the circumstances they want or they are mad at others. Folks, bitterness is a serious issue and it can spring up quickly. **Let me give you three things about bitterness:**

hurt, something did not go like they not go like they wanted it to, their want or the circumstances they want serious issue and it can spring up

**1. Bitterness is designed by Satan to destroy your life if you have bitter envying and strife in your heart. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every**

**life for God.** James 3:14-16, "But s, glory not and lie not against the truth. ly, sensual, devilish. For where evil work".

Hebrews 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail in bitterness springing up to trouble you, and thereby make you defiled; **but do not let it be so that you be defiled by the word "diligently"?** Folks, it is important that you guard your life in this matter. It is a diligent matter for each of us. Notice the words, "springing up many are defiled". Many Christians are bitter toward others. Ephesian s 4:29 and 31, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Let a bitter tongue be put away from you".

of the grace of God; lest any root of ny be defiled". **Did you notice the** this matter. It is a "springing up many are defiled". s 4:29 and 31, "Let no corrupt hich is good to the use of edifying, ll **bitterness, and wrath** ,..... be put

I want you to notice what the Bible says, Colossian s 3:18-19, "Wives, **submit yourselves** unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. **and be not bitter against them**".

s 3:18-19, "Wives, **submit yourselves** Husbands, love your wives, **and be not**

There are men and women today who are bitter toward one another. Men, if I am not the husband, father, and leader I need to be, is it because I am bitter against my wife? She is not meeting my expectations? Just remember that the devil can use this bitterness to destroy your life. There are many wives who are bitter toward their husbands as well.

one another. Men, if I am not the ause I am bitter against my wife? She is edevil can use this bitterness to tt toward their husbands as well.

**Did you notice the word submit?** One of the weapons against bitterness is submission, Ephesians 5:21. Many of the problems in the home today are due to people being bitter with each other and not being willing to submit to one another.

on, day are due to people being bitter one another.

**2. Do you know that many Christians are bitter today because they have an authority problem?** They cannot or will not submit to authority. Hebrews 13:7,17, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. **Obey them which have the rule over you, and submit yourselves** : for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you".

**ay because they have an** ws 13:7,17, ves spoken unto you the word of air conversation. **Obey them which** : for they watch for your souls, as they dnot with grief: for that is unprofitable

Several years ago, we had an older couple come and visit our church. Their children were grown and out of the house. They had been members of several different

visit our church. Their children bers of several different

independent Baptist churches, down through the year wrong with the Pastor or someone in the church. I Their children were a disaster and their grandchild considerably about wanting to have their children's ustopray about it. This is a family where the fa Day down through the years as the children were gro to visit, they would stay home with them. On certa from the church services and fix dinner for their f they were not in church. Many Sundays they just di spokewiththemaboutit, **they were faithful in their own mind** , I Corinthians 4:2. There were other things that were done to dishonor parent staught them to undermine the authority of t all extremely angry and bitter even with each other different Pastors and churches they sat under. It This family is so angry and bitter that they manufa about. Many are defiled because of their bitter nes drugs, immorality, and ungodly attitudes. Of cours and it is questionable about those in the family wh father of this family died an agonizing death and f was only able to look out the window of his home an his family. What a sad and miserable existence.

s. They always found something found they were very bitter people. ren were a disaster. They talked lives change. Of course, they asked ther worked many times on the Lord's wing up. If family members came in holiday they would stay home amily. If there was a family reunion, d not find their way to church. If you the Lord. As the child grew up the he Pastor they sat under and they are . Of course, they are angry with is all the Pastor's and churches fault. cture things to be angry and bitter sand their lives are a disaster, with e, they have married unsaved mates ohave made professions of faith. The or several months at the end of his life d think about the disappointments of

Many Christians fail to realize that authority is p 5. The attitude they have is "I do not care; noon If that is the attitude a Christian has, they will They do not understand that they are letting an aut life because of a lack of submission. Many Christi things because they are spiritually unfaithful int of it.

laced in their life by God, Romans 13:1- eis going to tell me what I should do". dian embittered, ugly, failures spiritually. hority figure create bitterness in their ans say and do many cruel and ugly heir life and many are destroyed because

Many times people will hear their Pastors speak a convicts their heart of the need of their life. Ho Spirit's conviction, and then bitterness wells up i submission. The authority figure, many times the P punishment. "Who does he think he is preaching on bitterness causes them to look for what they believ church, Pastor, or people at the church. Folks, it commands against. Remember submission is one of th your life.

certain subject and the Holy Spirit wever, they refuse to **submit** to the Holy n their life because of their lack of astor, take the brunt of that that?" Of course at that point, their e are things they do not like about the is a serious sin, that God warns and e key stone to having bitterness in

### 3. Repentance and prayer are the keys to fixing bi

tterness.

This is something that you must realize is in your When you realize it is sin, you need to repent, tur cleanse your heart from all bitterness. You need t about the person who is bitter against you. I hear

life because it will literally eat you up. n from it and in prayer ask God to o submit your will to God's will. What d a story one time about a guy who

would wrestle bears. The wrestling would go on for  
wrestle with a grizzly bear, and you might eventual  
the fight is just not worth the cost?

hours. Folks, you might be able to  
ly win. Have you ever thought about

In prayer, turn the bitter person over to God, Roma  
life. God will do a much better job of it than you  
and will make you bitter.

ns 12:16-21, and let God work in their  
will. Fighting with bitter people can

James 4:6-12, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore  
but giveth grace to the humble. **Submit** yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil and  
he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and He will  
hands, yes inners; and purify your hearts ye double  
weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and  
yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall  
another, brethren. He that speaketh the evil of his br  
evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou j  
law, but a judge. There is one law giver, who is ab  
that judgest another?"

, he saith, God resisteth the proud,  
I draw nigh to you. Cleanse your  
-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and  
your joy to heaviness. Humble  
if thou up. Speak not evil one of  
other, and judgeth his brother, speaketh  
udgeth the law, thou art not a doer of the  
let us save and to destroy: who art thou

Folks, bitterness will eat you up. Realize that yo  
do that. If you notice in James 4:6-12, the failur  
speaking and incorrect judgment of others all becau  
failure to submit to God. You fight bitter people  
loser. Make sure no root of bitterness is spring in  
into your life, do not let it stay. If it gets roo  
and you will be a source of destruction in others l  
can be a point to drive others away for the gospel.

u cannot change people, only God can  
et us submit to God, will result in evil  
se of bitterness which comes from a  
in your own power you will be the  
g up in your life. If it does happen to get  
t in your heart, your life will be destroyed  
ives. It will destroy your children and it

I can hear someone now say, but Pastor Coomer, you  
tome. I know how you feel. However, forgiveness  
it does not mean you put yourself in harm's way. Wh  
promising to do four things about their wrongdoing

do not know what they have done  
doesn't mean forgetting. In essence,  
en you forgive another you are  
:

1. I shall not use their wrongdoing against them int
2. I shall not talk to others about them and their wro
3. I shall not dwell on them myself. (Do not let thei
4. I shall turn them over to God.

he future.  
ng doing.  
r wrongdoing control your life).

May the Lord help each of us to identify and dig o  
finish reading this, may be you have had thoughts ab  
while reading it, why not ask God right now if the  
God to show it to you. Then ask Him for forgiveness  
situation is just turn it over to God. In essence,  
overt to you". Bitterness is a strong thing and you  
once. As you turn them over to God, and continue t

ut the "root of bitterness". As you  
out certain situations and people  
eis any bitterness in your life. Ask  
sin the matter and whatever the  
Lord, I am turning this situation or person  
may have to turn them over more than  
o do so, the devil will eventually

realize that is an area that he cannot work on in your life and God will take care of that person or situation in His time.

I have always enjoyed the hymn, "Take Your Burdens to the Lord and Leave Them There". May God help us to do so.

Terry L. Coomer is the Pastor of Elwood Bible Baptist Church, and the Director of For the Love of the Family Ministries. He has also served as the Publisher of the nation's fastest growing daily newspaper. Pastor Coomer holds Family Conferences in the local church. To have a meeting at your church or other needs he may be contacted at (765) 552-1973, [tlcoomer@juno.com](mailto:tlcoomer@juno.com), [www.fortheloveofthefamily.com](http://www.fortheloveofthefamily.com)