**Offenses and Bitterness** **(sjm 5-29-2024)**

Bitterness is unresolved, unforgiven [anger](https://biblicalcounselingcenter.org/fearful-watch-out-for-anger/) and resentment. It is the result of anger changing from an experience to a belief. **Bitterness is seething and constant.**

**Bitterness does not affect only you: It affects everyone with whom you come into contact**.

**Eph 4:30-31** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31**Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

 **Mark 4:17** **OFFENDED:** No. 1 reason why people get upset, leave churches & turn from Word of God [Satan can't control you against your will! Deceives]

 ***Gr: (skan‑dal‑id'‑zo)*** To entrap; trip up (figuratively, stumble or entice to sin;

 **Apostasy =** Abandonment of one’s religious beliefs or cause: Revolt against

- to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall,

- to entice to sin

- to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey

- to cause to fall away

- to cause one to judge unfavorably or unjustly of another

- since one who stumbles or whose foot gets entangled feels annoyed

**Matt 11:6** And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be **offended** in me. (ie: my ways, words)

[turn the other check, give to him in need, prefer others, take the back seat]

**Matt 18:8**  Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot **offend** thee,( vs 9) Eye,; Cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

**Matt 24:10** & then shall many be **offended**, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

**Mark 9:42** And whosoever shall **offend** one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone was hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

 \*[**Offenses** are mole hills which when magnified become mountains]\*

 Greater the material blessings, The greater the opportunities for offenses!

 Greater the realm of authority/responsibilities, The greater the opportunities

 The more you think you are right The greater the opportunities for offenses

 [**Offense** is often a non-issue, taken materially or seriously] conversations, beliefs, etc.

 **Key**: Stay focused, on primary issues (what Word says) Cut people lots of slack

**OFFENSES LEAD TO BITTERNESS** **resentment**, animosity, hard to bear of accept)

 **Heb 12:15** See to it that no one misses the grace of God & that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble & defile (corrupt) many

 **Acts 8:23** For I perceive that thou art in the **gall** of **bitterness** & in the bond of iniquity (captive to sin)

**Bitterness** (gr) Acrid = caustic (eating away corrosive corroding)

**Gall**= a spiritual poisoning (A spiritual) bad frame of mind

 **James 3:14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant, and [as a result] be in defiance of the truth. **15**This [superficial] wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly (secular), natural (unspiritual), *even* demonic.  **16For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist**, there is disorder [unrest, rebellion] and every evil thing *and* morally degrading practice.

 **Bitterness:** anger and disappointment at a perception of being treated unfairly; resentment.

 ONLY A PROUD PERSON WILL KEEP BITTERNESS IN HIS HEART**- IT will be exposed after enough pressure is applied!**

(**INSENSITIVE** or **SELFISH** people accept bitterness easier)

 Bitterness comes from a root of arrogance=(excessive pride or self-esteem)

 **WEBSTER=** to contend with another for Superiority!

Bitterness leads to **Consequences** (natural conclusion) Satan's uses as a tool

[Hatred, cruelty, revenge, self pity, jealousy, unnatural competition] Normally everyone recognizes problem **except** the bitter one:

**DEFEAT OF BITTERNESS COMES FROM GOD**

**1)** **Recognize** bitterness as a sin/deception & satan's device and confess it “listen to wise council”

2) Let your Expectations (significant issues) line up with the Word; Not flesh

**3)** Depend on the H/S to make right choices decisions **Eph 4:30-32**

**4)** Give other people the benefit of the doubt & don't stir up old stuff or be too touchy

**5) Give your life over to God Matt 10:39** He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life **for** **my** **sake** shall find it.

**6) Don’t just add God to your life but make Jesus the Lord of your life!**