

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

May 12

2024

The Need To Uproot Bitterness

I venture to say that we all have at some point in time been hurt by the words or actions of another, and then became harbored by anger and resentment toward that person, then allowing the root of bitterness to spring up.

You see, the root of bitterness usually begins by being intentionally or unintentionally hurt by another, and it is often a result of unresolved and unforgiven anger and resentment. However, bitterness is seething and constant, and bitter people are unpleasant to be around, for they are often cold, cynical, harsh, and they usually carry around the same kind of feelings as angry people do, but typically to a greater extent, causing them to have obvious effects on their mood.

However, the fact of the matter is, no matter how you slice it, bitterness is evil (Ref. James 3:14-16), and it has been said that, “bitterness is like drinking poison, and hoping that the other person dies.” Think about that. How true, right? You see, the point is, bitterness is dangerous, and it will hurt you far more than the person whom you are bitter toward.

Knowing that, let us all be mindful of the need to uproot all bitterness. Let’s completely put all bitterness away from us (Ephesians 4:31), and let’s replace it with things like kindness, compassion, and forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32). Therefore, let’s understand the

need to not harbor anger (Ephesians 4:26), and the need to forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32). You see, if we are going to effectively uproot bitterness we must let go of anger, and we must be willing to forgive those who have hurt us. Remember that, and instead of constantly replaying someone’s sin in your mind and watering the root of bitterness, forgive them, remembering that it has been said, “To forgive is to set a prisoner free, and then to discover that prisoner was you.”

Likewise, let’s all realize the need to uproot bitterness knowing that bitterness not only affects us, but it also affects everyone who is around us. To emphasize this point, I remind us of these inspired words of James, “*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*” (Hebrews 12:14-15). Let those inspired words sink in my friend, and uproot bitterness, lest it causes trouble for you and for others.

You see, it is evident that bitterness, and the root cause of it, is a work of the flesh, and those who fail to uproot bitterness, and the effects of it (i.e hatred, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, envy, etc.), will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21). Now, I ask, does that thought get your attention? Again, think about that, and do not allow bitterness and the roots of it to someday keep you out of heaven.

My friend, I encourage you to not let bitterness take root in your heart (Hebrews 12:15), but rather uproot it (Ephesians 4:31), lest it robs you of peace, holiness, and the grace of God (Hebrews 12:14). Never forgetting, that God does not desire for His people to live in bitterness, but rather He desires for them to live in love, peace, joy, and holiness (Ref. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22). Remember that, my friend, and be one who uproots all bitterness for the good of others, for your own freedom and joy, and for the glory of God!

✍️ Brad Phillips

It Takes Courage . . .

*To refrain from gossip when others about you delight in it.

*To stand up for an absent person who is being abused.

*To live honestly within your means and not dishonestly on the means of others.

*To be a real man, a true woman, by holding fast to your Christian ideals when it causes you to be looked upon as strange and peculiar.

*To be talked about, and yet remain silent when a word would justify you in the eyes of others, but which you cannot speak without injury to another.

*To refuse to do a thing which is wrong, though others do it.

*To live always according to your convictions.
To live always according to the Bible.

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God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816