

INTRODUCTION: Some people are bitter at God ... a mate, parents, child, friend ... an employer ...

#### I. WHAT MAKES A PERSON BITTER? Perceived sin.

- Resentment is harbored when an apology doesn't come.
- Maybe they don't realize they have sinned against you ... or maybe they actually HAVEN'T, but you think they have.
- You will be bitter, waiting for an apology that never comes.

#### II. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BITTERNESS?

- Bitterness remembers the details!
- Bad things are reviewed over & over ... you become obsessed with the sin you think they have committed.

#### III. WHY DO WE BECOME BITTER?

- We think we have the RIGHT to be bitter.
- Bitterness is based on how CLOSE the offense & offender is to us ... NOT based on how BIG the offense is.
- If they don't apologize, you'll be bitter the rest of your life.
- Even if they apologize, you can't forgive ... because bitterness doesn't forgive.
- Bitterness is YOUR problem ... not somebody else's.

#### IV. WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT BITTERNESS?

- 1.- Keep It Inside - And, it will make you SICK.
  - 2.- Let It Out - And, you will make everybody else sick.
  - 3.- Dig It Up - Hebrews 12:15
- Bitterness is a "root" that can spread ... it must be dug up.

#### V. HOW DO YOU GET RID OF BITTERNESS?

- 1.- Recognize YOUR Bitterness - Don't look at the offender or the offense, but recognize your own bitterness.
  - 2.- Realize That It's YOUR Problem - Bitterness is the sin of the bitter person, not the offender.
  - 3.- Confess It As YOUR Sin - It is a sin against God ... it is evil, it comes from Satan.
- REALIZE it is a SIN ... focus on your sin of bitterness.
  - CONFESS your sin ... It's YOUR sin problem.
  - RECEIVE God's forgiveness - I John 1:9

CONCLUSION: Jesus is waiting to give you healing, forgiveness, rest & peace.

- Only Jesus gives victory over the sin of bitterness.