

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Why is There So Much Bitterness?

Bitter food is one thing; but a bitter spirit that eats at the soul and spews forth cutting, hateful words is another matter entirely.

When you think about something tasting bitter, what comes to mind? An unpleasant taste? No doubt. A cutting feeling on the tongue? A bitter tasting object can cause a person's tongue, mouth, face and even entire body to twist, shake and recoil in response to it. It is sometimes comical to watch such a reaction when unsuspecting souls bite into a food item from which they did not anticipate a bitter taste. Small children can be a riot to watch do so.

Yet, noting a comical when the children of God demonstrate a bitter spirit towards God or their fellow man. Bitter food is one thing; but a bitter spirit that eats at the soul and spews forth cutting, hateful words is another matter entirely.

Since Jesus said, ***“Ye shall know them by their fruits”*** (Matthew 7:16), we would do well to consider some of the consequences or fallouts that come about due to bitterness. They are not pretty. Hopefully, the ugliness of them will catch our attention and cause us to be determined to work diligently to keep bitterness from taking root in our hearts.

What Does bitterness Do?

Bitterness troubles. That is what Hebrews 12:14 teaches. ***“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.”*** Bitterness stirs up trouble. If Satan cannot get us to fall for false teaching or give in to the pull of immoral conduct, he will take a crack at bringing us down with a bitter spirit. Marriages, friendships and elderships have crashed due to bitterness robbing people of their joy, rational thinking and peaceful demeanor. Let us face it; some people have “bitter breath.” I do not mean they have a foul odor, but rather the words that spring forth from their mouth are full of bitterness. James asked, ***“Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter”*** (James 3:11)? The answer is obvious. Just before that, James had made these two declarations: ***“Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be”*** (James 3:10).

The point? Christians need to remove bitter speech from their vocabulary. That means we must first remove any bitter spirit from our hearts. Make no mistake about it: a heart filled with bitterness cause big trouble, some of which is undoable.

Bitterness defiles. Hebrews 12:15 warns, ***“...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”*** Many point out how horrific murder, adultery and idolatry are. Yet, a bitter disposition is sometimes passed off as, “That’s just the way he/she is.” If “the way he/she is” means that he/she is a bitter grump, then he/she needs to have a serious change of heart and repent! The same Lord that tells us to avoid murder, adultery and idolatry also charges us, ***“Let all bitterness...be put away from you...”*** (Eph. 4:32). God knows what you and I need to understand and admit: bitterness defiles the soul.

Bitterness divides. A bitter spirit gets in the way of obeying the Lord's instruction to ***“follow peace with all men”*** (Hebrews 12:14). There surely was a good reason for God saying, ***“Husbands, love or wives, and be not bitter against them”*** (Col. 3:19) do you think? Bitterness can turn the best of friends into permanent enemies, drive happily-married couples to divorce court and spark a civil war within what was once a stable, solid and contented congregation. Satan must watch with glee as bitterness leads to turmoil within families and God's church.

Bitterness damns. Quite simply, if God tells me to put away bitterness, and yet I do not do it (Eph. 4:32), then my sin of bitterness will keep me separated from Him and thereby keep me in a lost state. Back again to Hebrews 12:15, we see that the bitterness which troubles and defiles a person causes him/her to fail or fall short of the grace of God. No wonder the Holy Spirit exhorts Christians to look diligently lest bitterness spring up in our hearts (Heb. 12:15)!

A bitter disposition and bitter tongue do not jive with being a child of God. Bitterness troubles, defiles, divides and damns. Those truths get my attention. Do they get yours? Because *“the heart knoweth his own bitterness”* (Pro. 14:10), let each one of us look into his/her own heart, do some self-analyzing and if bitterness be found, get rid of it.

—Southside Church of Christ

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Wayne Anderson**. Wayne passed away last Saturday night (June 10th) after many years battling a disability. His service was held at Sunset Memorial Garden Funeral Home at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, June 17th. Larry May conducted the service. Please keep Wayne’s wife, Pam and his father, Paul Gunn, in your prayers.

Prayer Requests

Jurlean Warren was taken to the ER at MCH on Thursday, July 8th. She was having severe pain issues. After a sonogram was done on Friday, she was scheduled for surgery to have her gall bladder removed. The surgery was done last Sunday. Jurlean came through the surgery just fine. She is home now. Keep her in your prayers that she has a quick recovery.

Prayers are requested for **Charlie Carson** (Jacob’s father). He was taken to the ER at ORMC on Thursday, June 8th due to severe back pain and not being able to walk. Charlie is undergoing tests to determine the cause of his pain and other issues.

Concerns Update

Perry Jo Wesson (Craig & Kallie’s baby daughter) was able to go home Tuesday, June 13th after a short stay in the hospital.

Prayer List

Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; James Drake; Glenda Driver; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Aisha Garcia; Becky Gillespie; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Cheri Hodges; Lon & Lana Howard; Shane Lester; Charles Lewis; Leigh Ann McFarland; Juan & Estella Morolez; Joe Morrison; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Linda Straw; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Terresia Weaver; Perry Jo Wesson; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; John Wood; Natalynn Wood; Samantha Woody.

Eisenhower’s Homebound...

Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Events

Watch *“In Search of the Lord’s Way”* Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

Our **“Vacation Bible School”** is July 24th-26th at 6:30—8:00 pm, Monday thru Wednesday.

The theme is: “The Flood”. Please invite your family, friends and your neighborhood children.

Sunday, June 25th, we will have a “**Potluck Luncheon**” following our A.M. service followed by our P.M. service. All our visitors are welcome to join us for some good food and fellowship.

The item requested for our “**Food Pantry**” for the next two weeks is: Canned Soups.

Indebted To the Older Generation

The Psalmist wrote, “*Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation and thy power to everyone that is to come*” (Ps. 71:18). We quickly note the concern the inspired writer had for the generations that would follow him. He wanted to show God’s strength and power to “this generation” and “everyone who is to come.”

Our attitude should be the same. It was not so many years ago that I was young, and the older generation was there to teach me the strength, power and ways of God. I will always be indebted to that older generation for doing so.

May we never forget that God’s truth must be taught and re-taught to each generation. The aged apostle Peter wrote to the young and old alike. “*I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me*” (2 Peter 1:12-14). Peter strongly emphasized the need to keep reminding people of divine truth even when they may already know these things.

My generation witnessed a change of direction in the church beginning several decades ago. Less emphasis was given to what the Bible calls “first principles” (Hebrews 5:12). The Hebrews writer lamented that such “first principles” had to be re-taught to brethren who ought to have been teachers themselves. This reminds us that we should not teach *only* first principles, especially to those who already know and honor them; but if first principles are not being followed and respected, then we must teach and re-teach them.

We will always owe the next generation the knowledge of fundamental divine truths found in the Word of God. Failure to teach today will bring nothing but trouble tomorrow.

—Milton Smith

June 18, 2023	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jon Roemisch	Steve Easlon
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture Reading	Bill Ryan	Cody Wesson
Second Prayer	Charles Wood	Oliver Hernandez
Closing Prayer	Jr. Munoz	Larry May
Lords Supper	<u>Trini Wood</u> Scot Straw Caleb York Travis Ruckman	Richard Siler Communion (In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547 *Deacon:* John Wood 413-7444 — *Pulpit:* David Ryan 512-924-0983 — *Table:* Richard Siler 556-2151 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“TBA”

Sunday PM

“TBA”

Our Records

Bible Class... 95

Morning Worship...112

Evening Worship ... 73

Wednesday...83

Contribution...\$6,004.78