

**Better Together** (part 3)  
Be Careful of Personal Judgments  
7.11.2018

Last time:

1. Remember that God is body-conscious!
2. We together create an atmosphere...
3. Don't let yourself be used like a cancer cell.
4. The way we treat each other is the way we treat Jesus Himself!
5. Think, act, and speak unity.
6. Allow love to help you overlook the flaws and misdeeds of others.

**Tonight...**

**Be careful of personal bitter-root judgments.**

*Church is made up of unique individuals from different backgrounds who have experienced the life-changing power of the New Birth.*

We carry with us into our Christian experience many of the behaviors and mindsets from our "BC" life. These gradually change as we experience mind renewal and as we learn to relate to life as believers who walk in love.

Romans 12:1-2 - AMP

I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

**Attitude and how it affects our relating together**

**Attitude**

Behavior representative of feeling or conviction; a disposition that is primarily grounded in effect and emotion and is expressive of opinions rather than belief; a persistent disposition to act either positively or negatively towards a person, group, object, situation, or value.

A+B=C

A=Event

B=individual's thought/conditioning

C=Response

## **Be aware of bitter roots that may hinder your relationships.**

### **We should make sure our attitude isn't created by bitter roots from negative experiences.**

Hebrews 12:15 - NLT

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Hebrews 12:15 - MSG

Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.

Romans 2:1 - AMP

Therefore you have no excuse or defense or justification, O man, whoever you are who judges and condemns another. For in posing as judge and passing sentence on another, you condemn yourself, because you who judge are habitually practicing the very same things [that you censure and denounce].

Matthew 7:1-5 - NIV

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. (2) For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (3) Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (4) How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? (5) You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

A bitter-root judgment is literally unforgiveness concerning a certain event and/or person that lies buried deep within your underlying thought patterns and produces bitter-root expectations.

### **Bitter-Root Expectations**

Bitter-root expectations can cause irrational responses to everyday living and relationships.

- You hurt the very people you love.
- You push yourself away from those you really want to be close to.
- You sabotage your success.

- You explode in anger at small things.
- You isolate yourself from closeness.
- You run from commitment.
- Your responses far exceed the event (you overly respond).

Close church relationships, in our services, in our small groups, in our dream teams, can cause any bitter-root issues you have to rise to the surface!

### **The cure for bitter-root judgements is forgiveness!**

Forgiveness (Webster)

*-to forgive, to cease to feel resentment against on account of wrong committed; to give up claim of requital from or retribution upon an offender*

Mark 11:25-26 - AMP

And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. (26) But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings.

Luke 6:37-38

Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Luke 6:37 - AMP

Judge not [neither pronouncing judgment nor subjecting to censure], and you will not be judged; do not condemn and pronounce guilty, and you will not be condemned and pronounced guilty; acquit and forgive and release (give up resentment, let it drop), and you will be acquitted and forgiven and released.

Ephesians 4:32 - AMP

And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:13 - AMP

Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive].

## How to Pull Up a Bitter Root

This is in essence practically forgiving a person.

1. Make an itemized list of the painful issue. Write out a one-sentence statement that describes what happened between you and another person, and in the sentence include exactly how it made you feel.

Example:

*Joe did not show up repeatedly when he promised me he would be there on time. This made me angry and made me feel like I can't trust anyone. It made me feel like people just don't care.*

2. In prayer, forgive the person for the offense by actually reading it to God and telling exactly how it made you feel. Then, in prayer, tell God that by an act of your will, you now choose to forgive the person for what they did. Tell Him that you release them from any liability they have towards you, that you forgive them completely. Ask God to help you with the emotions in you that this has produced. Specifically ask Him to help you completely work through any negatives resulting from the issue.

3. From then on, when any thoughts or feeling arise from the issue, remind God that you have completely forgiven the person by faith. Then pray for the person instead of thinking about what they did.