

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1212: Am I Too Bitter to Be Better?

<https://christianquestions.com/character/1212-bitterness/>

See:  CQ.Rewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What are some things that cause bitterness? How can it affect our lives? What are the definitions of the words translated *bitter* and *bitterness* in the Bible? (Colossians 3:19, Acts 8:23, James 3:14)
2. How does bitterness rationalize sinful behavior? In what way does it skew our view of the world? How does anger play into this? What are some of the ways Paul gives us to combat bitterness? (Ephesians 4:21-32)
3. What are some of the common signs that might indicate we are expressing bitterness? What is our main tool in treating others that will help overcome bitterness in our hearts? (James 3:8-15, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7)
4. How do hurt, jealousy and selfish ambition generate bitterness? How does Ananias' example humble us and give us a pattern to follow in our lives? How does Jesus' example help us? (James 3:14-18, Acts 9:17-19, Matthew 5:44-46)
5. Why was Esau bitter? Did he have a right to be bitter? Explain. How did bitterness affect Esau's memory of the birthright incident? How can it affect our memories? What can we learn from Esau? (Genesis 27:34-36)
6. What is the end result of God's discipline? How does discipline accomplish this? What does bitterness do to derail the lessons of discipline? What tool does Hebrews 12:14 give us to avoid bitterness in our interactions? (Hebrews 12:7-14)
7. If we only have short-term relationships, what might this indicate? How should we handle the myriad hurts that come to us in our lives? Are we ever justified in being angry due to hurt? How did Jesus handle persecution? (Romans 14:10-11, Hebrews 12:15-17, 1 Peter 4:8-9)
8. How did Simon the magician's selfish ambition lead him astray? What did the Apostle Peter accuse him of? What did he miss as he observed the miracles the holy spirit working through the apostles? How could this happen to us? What is the best course of action to avoid this? (Acts 8:9-13, 18-24, 1 Peter 5:6-7)
9. Do you see any bitter behaviors in your life? What tool or course of action from the study will help you to overcome these behaviors?