

Bitter Root Judgments

See: Matt. 7:1; Gal. 6:7; Heb.12:15.

KEY: While we are permitted, even encouraged, to judge behavior, for example as right or wrong, **we are not to bitterly judge the heart or motivation of another person** that is for God alone to judge.

Bitter root judgments usually begin in our families of origin and are often expressed in close relationships later in life. Children judge their parents or siblings for hurts inflicted on them, often seemingly justified, as the acts were wrong.

When we judge the heart of the person who hurts us or someone else, we sow seeds of bitter judgment into our own lives which operate like a curse pronounced upon ourselves. In doing so, we are not only injured by the original offense, but are continuously hurt by our sinful response to it. We will reap the seed of bitter judgment in the same area we judged. For example, if we judged in a financial matter, it will be a curse in our finances. If we judged the heart or character of a parent, we may see problems coming up with our own children in that same area.

At first we see no fruit from this root, but if the sin goes unacknowledged or confessed and as we continue to judge in the same bitter manner, a strong root system grows. When the fruit appears we want to blame someone else and continue to reap bitterness in the relationships that are very close to us.

Most of us realize the importance of immediately forgiving those who hurt us. However, few of us stop to examine whether we are negatively labeling the motivation or heart of that person. As we look back, we may begin to see a pattern of being hurt and judging in a similar way. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to the earliest time you felt hurt in that way. Begin confessing and cleansing at the root, or beginning.

Sara Flynn, in an article in MacNutt's Healing Line (June, 2009) gives an example from her own life where she judged her father wrongly for the way he dealt with her grandfather's inheritance to her. She writes that all through adulthood she struggled with finances, never seeming to be able to get ahead. She had long ago forgiven her father, but never asked God for bitterly judging her Dad. Within three weeks of praying, she had more simultaneous opportunities to earn money than all the openings in the past five years.

How to break:

- Confess and repent of the sin of bitterly judging. Receive forgiveness.
- Ask the Lord to show you any lie you believed about the motivation or character of the person and receive the truth. Bless the person.
- Ask the Lord to cancel the cycle of sowing and reaping in that area.
- Take authority and renounce and break any self-imposed curse.
- Renounce any vows you made at that time, "I will always/never.."
- Ask the Lord to restore all that was lost to you and the person judged as a result of your sin.

Ask the Lord to heal every wound in the relationship with that person (and subsequent people you judged similarly) that came from your sin.