

Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit Time To Do Some Weeding

James 4:17

Therefore to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Knowing the truth of Christ in your life is useless unless you are willing to put it to use. During the past week we learned the example of Moses in the wilderness leading the Children of Israel. Each time they complained, Moses was presented with a choice, accept the punishment for the people or plead their case before God. He choose to plead their case and in many cases stopped or halted a sever judgment against the people.

Like Moses, we are presented almost daily with opportunities to deal with the jerks in our life. We must choose how we will deal with them, in the Christ-like way or the human response. People will always understand the human response, but rarely the Christ-like response.

Seeder, Feeder, Weeder or Reaper?

The Crap of Life is the fertilizer for your life, but too much fertilizer can burn up your garden. It can cause you to have no harvest.

If you are not careful, you will look around at the Crap of Life and realize you don't know where to start. When you look at all the problems, how do you get a handle on which one? How do you prioritize? Where do you begin? Begin at the root!

Bitterness – unresolved anger in your life

Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Bitterness – piercing, sharp or acrid

Springing Up – to swell up, germinate or expand beyond the original plant

Trouble – crowding and or annoying

Many Be Defiled – to contaminate, sully or taint (misery loves company)

James 3:11

Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

So how do you identify if you have a root of bitterness in your life, or perhaps many?

Ephesians 4:31

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away, along with all malice

1. *Wrath* – fierceness, passionate as if breathing heavy
2. *Anger* – excitable, violent passion within the mind
3. *Clamor* – verbal outcry
4. *Slander / Evil Speaking* – (blasphemia) vilification or railing against
5. *Malice* – naughtiness, malignity (cancerous anger)

Bitterness is the root, but the fruit is what comes from the root. It grows and expands as Hebrews 12:15 tells us. As time goes on and the weed is not removed, then we find the fruit starting to grow.

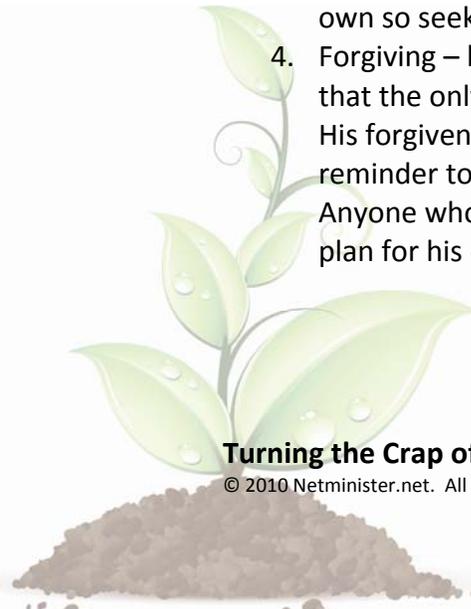
How Do You Root Out A Root of Bitterness?

Ephesians 4:29, 31

Let no unwholesome (rotten) word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to the person that hears it

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you

1. Look to uplift others and for opportunities to speak uplifting words (edification)
2. Be kind to others, even and especially if they do not deserve it
3. Tender – hearted – you are speaking to others with a heart of Christ, not your own so seek ways to be tender
4. Forgiving – let it GO! Past is past and when you continue to carry it, you will find that the only person suffering is you! Christ forgives and forgets – that is how His forgiveness is different than our forgiveness. Christ never holds our sin as a reminder to control us, as a matter of fact we have to choose to follow Him. Anyone who relives and brings up the past as a weapon is not following God's plan for his or her life.



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