

DRIED UP FROM THE ROOTS

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6,7 (NIV)

²⁰ And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

Mark 11:20 (KJV)

¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)

I. The importance of root systems

- A. Roots ground, nourish, and facilitate all fruitfulness.
- B. Roots are primarily unseen, and do their work unnoticed.
- C. Yet the natures of root systems are always revealed in the quality of the fruits they produce.

II. Bitter roots produce sour fruits.

- A. In Hebrews 12:15 the word ‘root’ is the Greek word ‘Ridzo,’ speaking of roots that have gone down deep and are now deeply embedded, established, and firmly fixed.
- B. When a root of bitterness is not repented of immediately, it becomes firmly fixed and deeply rooted in your soul. (Emotional not intellectual)
- C. Your negative opinions of the offender (including God if you’re offended by him) become immovable. As time passes, your thoughts of judgment against him will become more developed, rationalized, and established.
- D. Now you have a ‘mental stronghold’ which will present a constant stream of logical reasons to explain and justify your case against the offender.
- E. The word “bitterness” comes from the word ‘Pikria’ which means an inward attitude that is so bitter it produces a scowl on one’s face.

- F. The fruit of bitterness produces unkind, sour, sharp, sarcastic, scornful, cynical, mocking, contemptuous, and wounding statements.
- G. Bitterness has nothing good to say about the offender. It searches endlessly for more negative things to say about the person in order to turn other people's opinions against them as well.

III. Forgiveness: The only antidote to bitterness

- A. Bitterness is dissolved only in the purifying fire of forgiveness.
(Ephesians 4:31,32)

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- B. We must acknowledge that we have allowed a root of bitterness to grow.
- C. We must humble ourselves before God, imploring his forgiveness, knowing that he has forgiven all of our debts and that we are equal opportunity offenders.