

WHAT THE GENUINE MUST BE AWARE OF AS FATHER CHASTISES

8/15/2025
"Special"
Prophetic
Nugget

"When Your judgments are executed, people learn righteousness" (Isaiah 26:9).

Don't Die Leaving Someone Bitter!

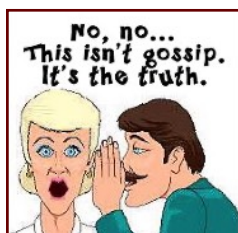
Reconciling is a glorious act of love.

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Even though death terminates personal contact on earth, the dead can still leave behind a curse. One of the most painful sources of bitterness that plagues the living is having *unresolved issues* against a deceased relative or friend. This is *far, far* more common throughout Christianity than you may realize. For years afterwards bitter people—those who hold onto unforgiveness—continue **slandering** or **gossiping** about the dead person. And it's not only against the dead they speak! The bitter habitually speak contemptuously too about the living for whom our Lord Jesus shed His blood.



FYI: Without exception bitter people routinely **bad-mouth**, that is, they **gossip** or **slander** someone who has died or who is still living. Here's the difference between the two:

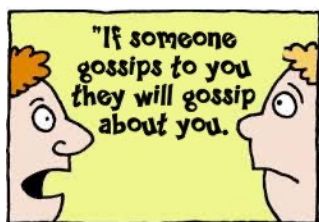


Gossip: Sharing negative information about someone with people who aren't part of a problem *or* part of its solution.

Slander: Telling only part of the truth with the intent to hurt someone or make yourself look like a victim of that person.

By their recurrent gossip or slander, people who are bitter are sinning against our Lord by defiling others who may never have even known the deceased or the living. There's a serious reason we're sternly warned, *"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). Why this direct warning? Because *"if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:14,15; also 18:34,35).

👉 No matter what you believe about eternal security, it's far better for you to take to heart *Abba's* view of unforgiveness. To Him, **bitterness is like pride** which He opposes (James 4:6; 1Peter 5:5). Your bitterness reveals that you have no regard for what you've been forgiven by our Lord. Your own sin and what Christ has done for you are trivial to you.



Whether against the living or the dead, bad-mouthing by someone who is bitter harms other relationships. •Bad mouths are incapable of fully supporting the emotional needs of those who are close to them. And, •they make those who know them suspicious that they too will be bad mouthed at some point.

👉 Before we discuss the sin of bitterness further, we encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit **if** you have any unresolved bitterness or unforgiveness toward others, or does anyone hold bitterness toward you. Also, prayerfully ask the Spirit **if** the following verses are accusing you concerning someone who is bitter toward you:

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23,24). Seriously consider this **if** someone has cut you out of their life without explanation.



If you're the oldest generation in your family, you may find that the greatest inheritance you can leave your loved ones is for them to have no ill feelings toward you or toward others.

Stop The Curse! RECONCILE!

The time to stop the curse of **bitterness-generated bad-mouthing** is while everyone is still alive and able to reconcile with each other. But this usually doesn't take place because people often don't have the **courageous love** that's needed.

Or, they don't know what steps to take to bring about **forgiveness** and **reconciliation**. (We've created this handout to help your family/faith community/workplace pursue reconciliation and stop the bad mouthing. Please use it!)



One of the most loving interpersonal skills you can develop is the ability to support someone even while you confront the hurt they cause you.

First, being supportive allows the other person(s) to be heard even if you don't agree with what they're saying. **If you want to be heard yourself, then you must hear them out as much as you want them to hear you.** You need to allow them the right to have and to share their own feelings and perceptions. When you *really listen* to what they're saying, your support increases the possibility for mutual **forgiveness** and **reconciliation**. Supportive listening shows that you recognize that their position is their reality. And *really listening* meets one of the deepest human needs — the need to be *heard, understood, and cared for*. These three needs are the foundations to human dignity — something we each want and must willingly extend to others.

"WE have a problem."

The word **confrontation** generates a negative feeling in most people as something we'd rather avoid than deal with. But while you might feel more comfortable by not confronting a problem in a relationship, you'll eventually realize that hurt feelings won't go away. Time heals nothing! Confrontation isn't the same as conflict. Confrontation *isn't* proving one person is right and the other one is wrong. Rather, confrontation focuses on finding the cause(s) of the hurt in a relationship *and* cooperating together to remove these causes.



✍ Confrontation is like removing the dirt and clutter in your home, thereby improving the living conditions for everyone who lives there.

Confrontation enables a detrimental situation to be changed for the better, especially as you know this is what Father wants you to do as one of Christ's own. The goal and process of confrontation is restorative. In other words, you confront what is hurting the relationship so that **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** are possible. Negative feelings may come out when you confront hurt. But don't let yourself feel threatened when the other person displays any emotional intensity. As *both* of you cooperate in discussing hurt feelings, you may discover new information you hadn't known before.

"YOU have the problem!"

Conflict is related to discord and hostility. Conflict has an **"I win—you lose"** mentality: one person is the victor while the other is defeated. Conflict usually involves blaming others and attacking the other person's character. Blaming someone else for your hurt feelings means you refuse to take any *personal responsibility* for how you feel. And blaming others keeps you from finding out if *you* are guilty of having done something hurtful.



On the next page is some guidance for how you can effectively support and confront someone. It would be wise to instill it in yourself first to avoid having resentment seething in your relationships.

Forgiveness & Reconciliation Are Possible If You Really Want It.

Below are insights for *how to support* someone while you focus on what's hurting the relationship and *confront it*. Remember, you really have to want nothing less than **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** if you're to experience a healed relationship. Humility in both parties is paramount, so pray first!

SUPPORT

Supportive listening encourages the other person.

What to support as they talk:

- Their anxiety, fear, doubt about what's happened.
- Their right to feel or think differently than you do.
- That what they perceive is real to them.

How to support them as they talk:

- Pray together for wisdom and truth in your talk.
- Let the other person speak their case without interrupting them.
- Listen! Listen! Listen!
- Restate back what they're saying so you're clear.
- Ask how they'd like to see this problem solved.

Don'ts:

- Don't rush in with answers or cut them off.
- Don't tell them how they *shouldn't* feel.
- Don't judge their point of view—describe instead what you're hearing and how it affects you.
- Don't give unsolicited advice that's irrelevant to the particular issue you're discussing.

CONFRONT

Confronting encourages you (and that's good!).

What to confront as you talk:

- Problems that aren't being solved.
- Differences that agitate your relationship.
- Actions that are hurtful in the relationship.

How to confront as you're talking:

- Treat the issue as a situation *you both* need to solve.
- Make sure the other person's position is clear to you.
- State your differences clearly and to the point.
- Check to see if they're understanding what you say.
- Be responsible for your own feelings—don't blame.
- Fully discuss the differences so you each know where the other stands in what they hold important.

Don'ts:

- Don't attack their character or imply motives.
- Don't railroad your own solution, even if you can.
- Don't problem-solve until you've both discussed all the issues to each other's satisfaction.

If you'd like more information about supporting and confronting, please download our free booklet: [**Growing Relationships Through Confrontation**](#). Many have found it helpful!

An Action That Helps With Emotional Healing And Gives Hope

After you've come to a place where you mutually feel that forgiveness and reconciliation are appropriate, we encourage you to have a **covenant of salt** ceremony. The covenant of salt appears twice in the Older Testament. It means that each of you is responsible to uphold the reputation of the other person. You're promising that in the future neither of you will bad-mouth the other! A salt covenant is an unbreakable and permanent vow as each of you takes some salt in your hand and tosses it back over your shoulder. This signifies that all past wrongs stay in the past: *"Love keeps no record of wrongs."*

How To Avoid Becoming Bitter

When your feelings are being hurt by someone, ask yourself:

1. Is what they're saying or doing *intentional* or *unintentional*? Do they really intend to hurt you?
2. **If** it's *unintentional* or just a slip-up, do you have the grace to overlook it? Or, will you speak about what they did in gossip or slander to others? **If** you're resentful, you need to go to the person first and address the matter. **If** there's reconciliation, then keep your mouth shut about the matter!
3. **If** it's *intentional* and your feelings are hurt, you need to confront it with the one who hurt you.

There Just May Be A Demonic Influence Causing Your Relational Tensions

In dealing with hurt feelings in your family, you'll find that *all of you* may suffer from the same **demon-induced negative influence**. Even though the surface symptoms may be different, the root demonic influence has most likely been in your family for several generations. So it's vital that as in our finger illustration about a problem, you approach others with your finger *pointed up* to indicate it's a WE situation. Think of a **demon-induced negative influence** like a computer virus or malware. Your family's **demon-induced negative influences** will remain active until you remove them in the Name of our Lord Jesus! If you don't, these influences just get passed along to the next generation.

While everyone is still alive you can resolve hurt feelings in your family. On the chart below, the **BOLD** words represent different **demon-induced negative influences** that frequently incite hurt feelings. Below the negative influence are various *symptoms* that these influences may produce.

Place a "✓" in the first space next to each symptom that you know is currently affecting your own life. In the second space mark another "✓" next to symptoms you recognize in other family members. Make sure the symptoms you mark are *habitually present*, not just a fleeting feeling or occasional situation. Next, discuss with each other each negative symptom you marked so you can discover what may be at the root of the issues that are hurting you. Be open about how you feel, but DON'T attack or accuse others of causing your hurt feelings. Blame just hides your own guilt.

DECEIT

- ___ Lies, exaggerates
- ___ Makes up fantasies
- ___ Delusional
- ___ Explains away bad
- ___ Flatters for favor

BITTERNESS

- ___ Resentful
- ___ Racist, sexist
- ___ Unforgiving
- ___ Angry, hateful
- ___ Begrudging
- ___ Violent temper
- ___ Vengeful
- ___ Chronic grumbler

HEAVINESS

- ___ Depressed
- ___ Despairing
- ___ Self-pitying
- ___ Lonely, isolated
- ___ Suicidal thoughts

FEAR & INSECURITY

- ___ Feels inferior
- ___ Feels inadequate
- ___ Timid around others
- ___ Can't trust people
- ___ Worries a lot
- ___ Has phobias, fears
- ___ Anxious, nervous
- ___ Perfectionist
- ___ Dreads failure
- ___ No follow through
- ___ "Motor-mouth"

INDEPENDENCE

- ___ Insensitive to others
- ___ Aloof, distant
- ___ Steps on others' toes
- ___ Argumentative
- ___ Keeps to self
- ___ Makes excuses
- ___ Doesn't trust others
- ___ Self-willed
- ___ Doesn't ask for help

JEALOUSY

- ___ Spiteful, mean
- ___ Gossips or slanders
- ___ Betrays others
- ___ Judgmental/critical
- ___ Suspicious
- ___ Uses hurtful words

REJECTION

- ___ Addictive behavior
- ___ Compulsive
- ___ Seeks to be accepted
- ___ Feels unworthy, unfit
- ___ Withdrawn
- ___ Shallow relationships
- ___ Plagued by loneliness

CONTROL

- ___ Manipulative
- ___ Insensitive to others
- ___ Desires to be noticed
- ___ Sensually seductive
- ___ Emotional outbursts
- ___ Scheming

PRIDE

- ___ Ungrateful
- ___ Self-righteous
- ___ Self-centered
- ___ Insensitive
- ___ Often seeks praise
- ___ Stubborn, impatient
- ___ Mocks others
- ___ Vain; self-important

REBELLION

- ___ Self-willed
- ___ Stubborn, pouts
- ___ Causes strife
- ___ Argumentative
- ___ Refuses to listen

RELIGIOSITY

- ___ Religious busyness
- ___ No love for those they consider unworthy
- ___ Spiritually arrogant
- ___ Hypocritical

Forgiveness & Reconciliation

For a complete list of demon-induced negative influences, see our online fillable form: [**Do You Have Any Demonic Strongholds In Your Soul?**](#) Or, use our free online workbook, [**Demolishing Strongholds**](#) for complete instructions for spiritual and emotional freedom.

