

Bitterness

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32

-A Christian is strictly commanded to lay aside any feelings of bitterness regardless of the offense committed against them.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Hebrews 12:14-15

-Bitterness takes root deep in the heart and will with time choke the soul. Once allowed to grow in the Christian life, bitterness is very hard and painful to remove. It is best to kill the seed instead of attempting to uproot the tree. If however, the bitterness has been allowed to grow, it must be uprooted by turning to God.

Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Colossians 3:19

-Men can easily become bitter at their wives when the wife does not meet some desired expectation of the husband, be it biblical or perceived. This is strictly forbidden. Christ is never bitter at His church in spite of its failures and husbands are to follow this example.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. James 3:14

-The Christian life is a lie when lived in an attitude of bitterness and envy. The truth never says "Amen" to bitterness.

For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Acts 8:23

-Gall was a bitter substance, having almost the idea of poison. Bitterness and poison go hand in hand.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Romans 3:10-14

-Bitterness is a characteristic of the unregenerate.