

11-17-19 Message
SOME VICES THAT WILL CORRUPT YOUR THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR

Intro: Next week we will be celebrating thanksgiving together. When we think of Thanksgiving we think of family, food, and fellowship. Food, family, and more food. When I turned 50 I was diagnosed with Diabetes. This is not a good time of the year to be diabetic.

I remember years ago we went to my mother's for Thanksgiving. It was a great meal. My mother knew how to cook. Everything you could imagine was at the meal. There was turkey, pasta, fish, and desserts. The whole family was there, and after the dinner there was something that we all ate that was not good. A bunch of us guys were on the sofa just groaning. It was bad.

So a great meal and blessing turned into a curse.

Now this morning I want to talk to you about some bitter things that will be hard to swallow this Thanksgiving. Some spiritual fruits that will turn your spiritual stomach bitter.

Have you ever sat down to eat something and when you looked at it it looked great but then when you bite down on it it is BITTER BITTER BITTER.

Now since this time of the year we will all be in the food mode, for good or for bad, I want to talk to you about:

**SOME BITTER THINGS
THAT SHOULD NOT BE ON YOUR PLATE
THIS THANKSGIVING.**

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:15 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;

TAKE ALL ELEMENTS OF CONTENTION OFF OF THE THANKSGIVING MENU THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. Follow peace with all men.

Follow peace with all men.
WHAT CAUSES STRIFE AND DIVISION?

**I. TAKE THE ROTTEN FRUIT OF AN UNTAMED TONGUE OFF THE MENU.
THIS ROTTEN FRUIT IS SERVED UP BY OUR TONGUES.**

Ever sit down to eat some fruit and outside looks good but when you eat it there is a worm staring out at you. Rotten fruit!

THE OPPOSITE OF PEACE IS WAR. JAMES TELLS US CLEARLY WHY WE FIGHT AND WAR, FIGHTING, BICKERING, STRIFE WILL BE BITTER TO OUR STOMACHS THIS THANKSGIVING.

What causes contention and strife? Certain ingredients and you will get sick to your stomach this Thanksgiving.

1. TAME YOUR TONGUE CONCERNING PAST TRANSGRESSIONS.

Proverbs 17:14 The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

Like one letteth out water. It's like a leak, best not even to go there.

One person says this.
Another person says that.
Then they add to it.
Then someone replies.
Then there is a long discourse.

Sounds like facebook to me. The truth is I don't need all the drama.

Ever notice when Peter denied the Lord three times:
That Jesus arose and sought after Peter and when he finds him he never mentions Peter's failures.

Here is a sure recipe to get spiritually sick to your stomach this Thanksgiving.

Bring up all the failures of those present.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
Proverbs 17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

Jesus knew Peter repented of his failure, why bring it up?

Another thing that will cause bitterness this Thanksgiving is saying unkind things.

2. TAME YOUR TONGUE, BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Bringing up hurtful things from the past.

Poor timing in your remarks.

Trying to get the last word.

Raising your voice.
A soft answer turneth away wrath.

Most hurt feeling, fightings, and divisions happen in a family because of people who cannot control their tongue.

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When we fail to use our tongues in a healing kind way we cause much hurt.

And so it is, if you dish this out this holiday season, don't be surprised if it causes you and others to be sick to their stomachs.

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Ephesians 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Notice the Bible says, put away foolish talking and Jestng:

Why? Because in essence man's humor is cruel. We as Christians should not be cruel to others. Our speech ought to be the opposite of cruel, it should be filled with grace and love.

There is one greek word used to mean foolish talking. It is the word Moro-Logia Moro is the root word from which we get the word Moron, a person who doesn't think about what they are saying. Silly, stupid.

Note Strongs definition below:

3473 morologia, mo-rol-og-ee'-ah; from a comp. of 3474 and 3004; silly talk, i.e. buffoonery:-foolish talking.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

3474 moros, mo-ros'; prob. from the base of 3466; dull or stupid (as if shut up), i.e. heedless, (mor.) blockhead, (appar.) absurd:-fool (-ish, X -ishness).

3004 lego, leg'-o; a prim. verb; prop. to "lay" forth, i.e. (fig.) relate (in words usually of systematic or set discourse; whereas 2036 and 5346 generally refer to an individual expression or speech respectively; while 4483 is prop. to break silence merely, and 2980 means an extended

or random harangue); by impl. to mean:-ask, bid, boast, call, describe, give out, name, put forth, say (-ing, on), shew, speak, tell, utter.

Put away jesting, meaning, hurtful humor, Most humor if taken seriously is hurtful. We need to be careful. The Bible says our words should be as:

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

II. THE ROTTEN FRUIT OF PRIDE WILL SPOIL ANY THANKSGIVING MEAL.

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Reminds me of the Ephramites chiding with Gideon. He hazard his life to save Israel and then the Ephramites came and chided with him because he did not call them to the Battle. God told Gideon not to call them because of their pride. Remember when he had 32,000 he said go home if you're afraid and got it down to 10,000 men, then God said go down and tell the men to drink and the ones that lap the water like dogs choose them. So God used 300 humble dog lappers to win the battle.

Ever sit down and take an apple to eat it, and when you bite down into it there is this brown rotten spot. THAT IS WHAT PRIDE DOES TO YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE. It is what spoils our spiritual fruit.

James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

ACCORDING TO THIS PASSAGE THE FOLLOWING ROTTEN FRUIT WILL CAUSE FIGHTING AND DIVISIONS.

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Note: How we should imitate Christ in the area of humility.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

A. WE NEED TO ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN OURSELVES.

When people annoy you is it not because you esteem yourself better than them?

When others inconvenience you and you get upset, is it not because you want to be served rather than serve?

B. A PERSON FILLED WITH PRIDE GETS ANGRY AT OTHERS BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM.

Note the difference between a parent and a typical person that is contentious and impatient with others.

A mother's little baby dirties their diaper. Mommy says, oh sweetie let me help you.

A new Christian doesn't know how to act like a Christian yet. Why do we get angry at them and become offensive and drive them away?

We get angry when people create work for us.

A parent is more willing to sacrifice for their children. We need more spiritual parents.

**III. ANOTHER ROTTEN INGREDIENT IS THE ROTTEN FRUIT OF CARNALITY.
Carnality is what causes the fighting, divisions, and strifes.**

EVER SIT DOWN TO EAT AND THE FRUIT LOOKS GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE BUT IT IS HARD AND NOT RIPE, HAVING NO TASTE AT ALL. THIS IS CARNALITY.

Paul call the carnal Christians babes, immature, and immature fruit has no taste.

I Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

The word carnal is comes from the word flesh.

One of the fruits of walking in the flesh is division, hatred, and strife.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

This world is filled with strife, division, hatred, etc..
Those who walk in the flesh will be those who are divisive.

I Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

We talk about good cheer, meaning drinking liquor. This does not bring anything good in a person's life.

I used to be a bartender and I know that those who were drunk were quick to fight and brawl, and argue and cut up.

We as Christians are commanded to be sober!

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

THOSE WHO ARE IN THE FLESH WILL SELF DESTRUCT.

The world is always looking for peace and they will have none because of the flesh and activities of the flesh.

How can they think they will bring peace by catering to the flesh?

The worldly crowd may LOOK GOOD. THEY MAY LOOK LIKE THE LOVING ONES BUT THEY ARE NOT.

Adultery brings broken homes. Bitterness, unforgiveness, hate, drunkenness, revelings, are all the fruit of the flesh.

SIN PRODUCES MORE SIN. IT IS ALL ONE PACKAGE.

Can sinners be at peace? And when the Christian sins he receives the same results. We have the power of Christ to be victorious over sin.

Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

Isaiah 48:22 There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.

CONCLUSION:

This Thanksgiving let us be reminded of the bad fruit that we could exhibit in our spiritual lives which can cause us to be bitter, unsavory.

When we dish up these rotten ingredients we ultimately will dish out bitterness. We allow a root of bitterness to creep into our lives we become a castaway and become useless for the ministry. We need to be on guard and we need to be diligent in rooting out any sins that could take root in our lives and cause us to be worthless for the cause of Christ.

Hebrews 12:15 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;

We need to be diligent about our spiritual life and walk with the Lord.

So often I see people who can't get along are fighting and divided warring one with another. I just shake my head. What is really appalling is when I see that in the lives of Christians and their families.

They look like a good apple. I mean on the outside. It looks good, but when you bite into it the fruit is rotten and full of bitterness because of that which causes this corruption.

- I. BECAUSE OF AN UNCONTROLLED TONGUE.**
- II. BECAUSE OF PRIDE IN YOUR LIFE.**
- III. BECAUSE OF CARNALITY AND THE WORKS OF THE FLESH.**

BE CAREFUL THAT THESE THINGS DO NOT DEFILE YOU THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, OR ANY TIME OR SEASON FOR THAT MATTER.

When I gave my heart to the Lord I went to a little church and they had a special service that day. They had a movie they showed that portrayed life as a spiritual battle between Satan and God. The film was trying to recruit soldiers for the cause of Christ. One of the things that struck a chord with me was they contrasted a family eating a thanksgiving dinner together compared to men eating and drinking in a local bar. I was aware of what took place in a bar, I also knew that what was better was the family eating at home praying and thanking God for their food. One was rotten, one was good. That Sunday in October 1974, I decided I did not want my life filled with rotten fruit.

How about you?

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO HAD A ROOT OF BITTERNESS PART II

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:15 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;

Paul warns about allowing bitterness creep up in your life.
Like a root.

Note he calls it a root of bitterness.

Here is how it works. We allow bitterness to take over our hearts and lives, just like we allow weeds, or thorn bushes, to take over our gardens or fields.

THE BIBLE SAYS LOOK DILIGENTLY. Lest any man fail of the grace of God.

Matthew Henry: About this root of bitterness.

A root of bitterness, a bitter root, producing bitter fruits to themselves and others. It produces to themselves corrupt principles, which lead to apostasy and are greatly strengthened and radicated by apostasy-damnable errors (to the corrupting of the doctrine and worship of the Christian church) and corrupt practices. Apostates generally grow worse and worse, and fall into the grossest wickedness, which usually ends either in downright atheism or in despair. It also produces bitter fruits to others, to the churches to which these men belonged; by their corrupt principles and practices many are troubled, the peace of the church is broken, the peace of men's minds is disturbed, and many are defiled, tainted with those bad principles, and drawn into defiling practices; so that the churches suffer both in their purity and peace. But the apostates themselves will be the greatest sufferers at last.

The defiling is when we become worthless for God's ministry, reprobates.

This is what Paul warned, that he guards himself against, instead of a reprobate he says he could be in danger of being a castaway. Same thing.

I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

One sin leads to another, and certain sins that creep into our lives always open a Pandora's box of sin in our lives. A person that opens their heart and life to bitterness often fail in other ways.

Lets look at some people mentioned in the Bible who had this root of bitterness in their lives.

I. CAIN IS AN EXAMPLE OF A BITTER PERSON WHO BECAME A MURDERER..

Cain was warned:

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Cain was warned that sin crouched at his door like an opportunistic germ.

If we do not become diligent in our lives sin will take over.

Why was he bitter? He was bitter over the fact that his brother was accepted more than he was.

Sometimes we are not willing to admit that when others excel and we do not, it is because others do right and we do not.

Someone interviewed a well known black civil rights leader on Martin Luther King day asking if now they think that King's dream has been realized now that we have a Black president. He said, "No because statistics show there are still more blacks that are impoverished than whites etc.. " Are more blacks impoverished because of prejudice?

Well I think Bill Crosby said it right that blacks need to stop pitying themselves and start doing. Maybe that is why the powers that be crucified Bill Cosby. What he said was not politically correct. Here he was a black man contradicting the political correct crowd. And I believe he suffered for that stand. Isn't it convenient that years later a host of women come out of the woodwork to file complaints against him? This is not to say he is squeaky clean, but maybe it was because of his stand that he was targeted.

Maybe one of the reasons that Obama became president is because he had better communication skills than McCain. He may have worked harder and campaigned harder and had more backing and money behind him. The color of his skin only made the media happy.

A root of bitterness can manifest itself in poor people as well as the rich, and a lot of people just think they got a bad break like CAIN. So what does he do? HE KILLS AND TRIES TO STEAL WHAT HE WANTS INSTEAD OF DOING WELL AS THE LORD SAYS HE SHOULD HAVE.

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

So it is today many blacks wind up in jail, I think, because they have done wrong, mostly because of the high ratio of families that raise kids without a biological father. Obama wound up in the White House proves that the old civil handicap of being black has been removed, and in fact, it is easier to excel if you are black because society in general is being careful to not be prejudice against a black or a minority. In fact better than being black is to be Native American or Indian. This is why Elizabeth Warren played the race card to her advantage. Another woman who was the president of the NAACP (National Association of the advancement of colored people) claimed to be ½ black to get certain jobs only offered to blacks. Again people playing the race card in reverse.

CAIN was told if he does well he will be accepted. If anything he had more of a right to excel than Abel. He was the older brother. Yet he became a reprobate because he did not do well, instead he murdered his brother.

II. ESAU WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A PERSON WITH ROOT OF BITTERNESS. PAUL GIVES THE EXAMPLE OF ESAU AS A PERSON WHO HAD A ROOT OF BITTERNESS.

Hebrews 12:15 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 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

ESAU:

1. HE SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT MORE A MORSAL OF MEAT.

Hebrews 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

2. HE ALSO COMPROMISED HIS MORAL PURITY BY COMMITTING FORNICATION WITH THE DAUGHTERS OF THE CANAANITES.

But before that he is mentioned to be a:

Fornicator.

Profane person.

He obviously took a wife of the children of the Hittites and must have had a reputation of fornication to do so.

Genesis 26:34 And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:

It was after this in Gen Chp 27 that we see Jacob stealing not only the birthright but also the blessing of Abraham.

Esau is noted here as a bitter person.

Why was he bitter?

He was bitter because of what he did. He sold his birthright and then he got angry with his brother who bought it. He should have been angry at himself!

One sin leads to a greater sin.

HE WAS PROFANE.

HE IS CALLED A FORNICATOR. Obviously he had a problem with immorality.

Many times we allow a root of bitterness to creep into our lives because of bad character or another sin that we are secretly harboring.

III. SIMEON THE SORCERER IS NOTED AS HAVING A ROOT OF BITTERNESS AND BEING DEFILED.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

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

What is the reason for this?

Simon allowed the sin of covetousness to control his life.

He thought he could buy spiritual gifts with money, so he could use it to gain money.

There are many, many other people who probably had a root of bitterness in the Bible.

If time were to permit we could talk about Judas Iscariot and others who were corrupted by some form of bitterness. The ultimate example being Satan who was bitter against his creator.

CONCLUSION:

When we allow a root of bitterness to creep into our lives we become a castaway and become useless for the ministry. We need to be on guard and we need to be diligent in rooting out any sins that could take root in our lives and cause us to be worthless for the cause of Christ.

Hebrews 12:15 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;

We need to be diligent about our spiritual life and walk with the Lord.

Cain blamed Abel for his bitterness.

Esau Blamed Jacob and justified his bitterness.

We need to diligently guard ourselves, lest a root of bitterness creep into our lives.

- 1. You are responsible to live for God, and when you stand before Christ: EXCUSES ABOUT OTHERS OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT RAW DEALS, THESE WILL NOT HOLD WATER IN THAT DAY.**
- 2. Even allowing the wrongs that others do to you causing you to**

get bitter will not hold up in that day.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

- 3. Bitterness not only will defile you it defiles others. Also:**
- 4. We need to be diligent in keeping our hearts and lives clean and pure and free from ill feeling and malice.**

Conclusion How To Be Pure Of Bitterness In Your Life:

A. KEEPING BODIES AND LIVES IN SUBJECTION TO THE WORD OF GOD.

B. NOT HARBORING BITTERNESS UNFORGIVENESS.

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

C. SECRET SINS CAN MANIFEST THEMSELVES IN BITTERNESS.

James 3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

D. WE NEED TO CLEANSE OURSELVES OF THESE:

I Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.