



**The Person(s) Who Wronged Me:**

Name(s)

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**The Wrong Done to Me:**

(List here)

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Pastor Dan Barfell | 4.22.18

# HE STILL ROLLS AWAY STONES

THE STONE OF BITTERNESS

**Introduction:**

- Bitterness can be defined as a resentful cynicism that results in an intense hostility toward others. It is the state of mind that willfully holds on to angry feelings, ready to take offense, able to break out in anger at any moment.
- The person who is bitter is often resentful, harsh, cold, relentless and unpleasant to be around.
- This morning, we're going to look at what the Bible has to say about bitterness. We will come to see the devastating effects bitterness has on a life – but more importantly, how to get rid of it.

*"The foremost danger in succumbing to bitterness and allowing it to rule our hearts is that it is a spirit that refuses reconciliation."*  
(Gotquestions.org)

**Bitterness leads to:**



**Wrath and anger –**

**Brawling –**

**Slander –**

**Malice –**



## How Can the Stone of Bitterness Be Rolled Away?

**Let God \_\_\_\_\_ It.**

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)*

Here are four habits of bitter people taken from the example of the older brother:

a. Holding \_\_\_\_\_.

*But he was angry and refused to go in (Luke 15:28).*

b. Feeling \_\_\_\_\_.

*“...these many years I have served you and never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends” (v. 29)*

c. Being \_\_\_\_\_.

*“But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes...” (v.30a)*

d. Being \_\_\_\_\_.

*“...you killed the fatted calf for him!” (v. 30b)*

**Let Good \_\_\_\_\_ It.**

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted... (Ephesians 4:32)*

*Kind –*

*Tenderhearted –*

You will discover that your life is more joyful  
when you uproot your bitterness.

**Let Grace \_\_\_\_\_ It.**

*...forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32b).*

• The basis of forgiveness is rooted in \_\_\_\_\_.

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32).*

• Forgiveness is actually the \_\_\_\_\_.

*And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt (Matthew 18:27).*

*Forgiveness has begun when you recall those who hurt you  
and feel the power to \_\_\_\_\_.*

Professor Lewis Smedes, Fuller Theological Seminary

• Forgiveness and Reconciliation \_\_\_\_\_.

When a person forgives, he recognizes but then cancels the debt the offender owes him. But this does not mean that the relationship between offender and the offended returns to “business as usual.” The relationships can only be normalized when there has been genuine, ongoing repentance on the part of the offender.

Dr. Dan Allender illustrates it this way:

*If someone tracks mud into your beautiful home night after night, forgiving him would mean that the next time he knocks, you go to the door.*

*But if he is still muddy and still intending to track it in, you don’t let him in. There has been no repentance, thus there can be no reconciliation.*

*Only repentance (taking off his muddy shoes in respect of your home) can result in an invitation to come in. Forgiveness is simply the willingness to keep going to the door in hopes that repentance may have occurred.*

(taken from **Counseling Insights**, Charles R. Swindoll)