GRACE AND MERCY

• The acceptance of Jesus Christ as our savior means we are saved by His grace. Christ pardoned our sins so we should exemplify God’s grace by being merciful toward others. *Eph. 6:24* Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

• Satan is vengeful toward mankind because he was abased and we were chosen by God. *1Pet. 5:8* Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Wrath and vengeance are the opposite of grace and mercy.

• Grace is a gift of God and a reflection of His character but wrath is of Satan. Assuredly, the spirit of wrath is the enemy of grace. *Eph. 4:7* But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

BITTER BELLY

• Wrath will always lead to bitterness. When we allow bad emotions to fester in our lives, this will lead to a bitter outlook of others and a displeasure with one’s own existence. *Prov. 21:19* It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

• Bitterness has an identifiable symptom. A desire to cause strife when recalling an injustice is a sure sign of bitterness. *Prov. 17:14* The beginning of strife is as when one leteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

• If you get a “funny” feeling in the pit of your stomach or your mood changes when a situation or person comes to mind, then you are harboring bitterness and need to release it. *Matt. 6:15* But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

SUBCONSCIOUS STRIFE

• A bitter person dwells in a negative environment. In the absence of God’s grace and mercy such a person will unknowingly surround themselves with negative people, opinions, and distractions. *Heb. 12:15* See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God, that no one be like a bitter root springing up and causing trouble, and through him many become defiled.

• A bitter person usually seeks to escape a situation when they are challenged to deal with themselves. When challenged they seek to find shortcomings in others, which stirs up strife. *Prov. 15:18* A quick-tempered person stirs up
dissension, but one who is slow to anger calms a quarrel.

- Grace and mercy repels bitterness, but when you have harbored it for so long, it feels that YOU are being repelled. This causes seditions and variances among people. Bitter people fight against those that desire to help them deal with their issues. The ones that hold the solution to their issues are the ones they fight against and avoid. Prov. 26:21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

**SUMMARY**

People that are bitter make decisions based on their negative outlook. In most cases, they will indirectly add stress factors to make their situation more and more negative. They have unwanted children, abuse substances, divorce, sleep around, severely alter their appearance, break the law, and murder. These things put them in a worse position than before and only adds to their bitter feelings. This causes them to blame the original situation that made them bitter and hate the culprit even more.

When people harbor bitterness they expect others to “make the first move” toward reconciliation. If they were hurt, they will continue to think about the grievance until it consumes their present existence. But bitterness cannot be removed until wrath is resolved. And the spirit of wrath can only be broken by true forgiveness. Forgiveness comes from grace and mercy and these are gifts of the Spirit of God.

Is. 38:17 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.