

## Battle bitterness with belief

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Romans 12:17-21

- A. Anger is a visible sign of bitterness
  - 1. James 1:19,20
  - 2. Colossians 3:8
  - 3. Galatians 5:20
- B. We Must Battle Unbelief to Battle Bitterness
  - 1. Colossians 3:8

- Leroy Eims was a Christian leader who had a violent temper and terrible battle with anger and bitterness. Shortly after coming to Christ, he studied Colossians and read "PUT OFF BITTERNESS." At times he would get so mad he would hit the wall and bloody his knuckles. He memorized the verse and reviewed it daily for weeks. He asked his wife to pray for him and hold him accountable if she saw him failing in his promise. Colossians 3:8 became part of his life and gradually God removed the sin from him.
- 2. Cherish Being Forgiven By God. Ephesians 4:32 – "Be kind to one another; tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." In other words, being forgiven by God should have a powerful effect on our being forgiving people and letting go of grudges and bitterness. Saving faith does not mean merely being forgiven. It means believing that God's forgiveness is the most precious thing in the world. THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN BITTERNESS AND UNBELIEF. If faith means standing in awe of being forgiven by God, then you cannot go on holding a grudge.
  - 3. Trust that God's Justice will prevail Romans 12:19 says "Beloved, never avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

God will repay all wrongs in perfect measure. The battle against vengeance and bitterness is a battle against unbelief in the promise of God to vindicate us in due time and to make justice prevail (Psalm 37:6). No one was wronged worse than Jesus. He chose to trust God.

**IF YOU KEEP A GRUDGE – YOU DOUBT THE JUDGE**