

QUESTION: What does the spouse who is "confused and bothered" and has abandoned the marriage need to do, and what might have caused their feeling the way they do?

ANSWER: The one who has become discontented or disillusioned with the marriage has been dwelling on the negative, **relying on their emotions** rather than on pleasing and obeying God, and may have allowed a root of bitterness to defile their mind, and eventually their whole life. The husband is commanded to "LOVE his WIFE and not be BITTER toward her." We are all, husbands and wives, commanded to resolve our anger issues and conflicts quickly (before the sun goes down), because to hold onto that anger allows the devil to come in and wreck our marriage.

- **Colossians 3:19** "Husbands, LOVE your wives and **do not be BITTER toward them.**"
- **Hebrews 12:14-15** "Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any **root of BITTERNESS springing up cause TROUBLE**, and by this **MANY become DEFILED.**"
- **Ephesians 4:26-27 & 30-32** "Be ANGRY and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **nor GIVE PLACE to the devil.** And do not **GRIEVE the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all **BITTERNESS**, wrath, ANGER, clamor, and all EVIL SPEAKING be **put away from you**, with all malice. And be **KIND** to one another, **tenderhearted, FORGIVING** one another, just as **God in Christ also forgave you.**"

Bitterness is stored up anger, resentment and unforgiveness. When we SIN by holding onto anger and bitterness, it GRIEVES the Holy Spirit and breaks the FELLOWSHIP (communion - II Cor. 13:14) that we have with Him as our Helper and Comforter. To RESTORE that broken fellowship with God, repent and confess your sin according to 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." Bitterness hurts many more people than just the one who is bitter. Many family dysfunctions and generational sins **began as a ROOT of BITTERNESS** in someone's life, which then passed down to their family in the form of more DYSFUNCTIONS, ADDICTIONS, and other problems ("many become defiled"). We must learn to NOT hold onto resentments, and FORGIVE quickly, so that a ROOT of BITTERNESS does not start growing in our marriage.

- **I Peter 5:8-9** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary (enemy) the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith..."
- **II Corinthians 2:10-11** "Now whom you FORGIVE anything, I also FORGIVE. For if indeed I have FORGIVEN anything, I have FORGIVEN that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, **lest SATAN should take advantage of us**; for we are not ignorant of his devices."
- **Colossians 3:12-13** "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering (patience); bearing with one another, and **FORGIVING one another**, if anyone has a COMPLAINT against another; **even as CHRIST FORGAVE YOU**, so YOU also MUST DO."