

Don't Drink the Poison
The Grudge – Part 3 of 4
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Forgiveness is not...

If I forgive, do I forget about justice and stop pursuing it?

- God is just and loves justice

Romans 3:25-26 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. NIV1984

- Justice moves our heart toward mercy
- Forgiveness doesn't automatically restore trust

Proverbs 16:6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil. NIV1984

Beware of Bitterness which poisons our system.

Hebrews 12:15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. NLT

How Bitterness Gets In

Injury → Hurt → Anger → Resentment → Bitterness

Bitterness...

- Contaminates relationships
- Leads to a victim mentality
- Deteriorates your walk with God

How to Get Rid of Bitterness:

- Forgive

Ephesians 4:30–32

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. ESV

- Choose humility

Colossians 3:12-13 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ESV

- Give God time to make it good

Genesis 50:20-21 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ESV