

# Consequences of Unforgiveness

## Hebrews 12:14-15

### Hebrews 12:14-15 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup>“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

<sup>15</sup>See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.”

Scripture stresses the importance of pardoning those who have offended us. While it may feel natural to pull away from hurtful people, refusing to forgive has consequences far worse than the pain of being wronged. Unforgiveness ...

**Harms family interactions.** Have you ever tried to maintain a growing relationship with an individual who's rooted in bitterness? You can't do it, because that person is fixated on unhealthy feelings about someone else. Moreover, it's hard to spend time with anyone consumed by resentment, because such people simply cease being likable.

**Hinders prayer life.** Unforgiveness is sin, and unconfessed sin creates “static” in a believer's relationship with God. So, it's important to forgive others before prayer or worship (Matthew 5:23-24).

### Matthew 5:23-24 (NASB)

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

<sup>24</sup>leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”

**Damages one's personal witness.** The highlight of your testimony is salvation, which centers around the truth that the Lord has forgiven all your sins. How can you stress the importance of this if your listener can't see even a hint of forgiveness in your own life?

**Thwarts spiritual growth.** God will not bless sinful actions. And so, if you are living a life mired in unforgiveness, you cannot expect Him to shower you with His blessings. By persisting in disobedience, you disrupt intimate fellowship with the Lord and put yourself in a dangerous position.

Is there anyone you need to forgive today? Don't let another day pass without granting that forgiveness. There is more at stake than you may have realized.