

## **IDENTITY THEFT ...**

### **Robbed by Relationships - Part 1 of 4**

**Ecclesiastes 2:1, 10-11 (NIV)** “I thought in my heart, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.’ But that also proved to be meaningless...I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure...everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;”

**Proverbs 19:22a (NIV)** “What a man (or woman) desires is unfailing love,”

### **How Bitterness Steals Your Identity**

**Job 5:2 (NIV)** “Resentment kills a fool and envy slays the simple.”

**Job 18:4 (LB)** “You are only hurting yourself with your anger.”

**1. Bitterness in your life causes \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I John 2:11 (NIV)** “But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.”

**2. Bitterness in your life limits \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 6:15 (NIV)** “But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

**3. Bitterness in your life affects \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Mark 11:25 (NIV)** “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

**4. Bitterness in your life \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)** “Peter asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”

**5. Bitterness in your life ruins \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Psalms 73:22** “When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.”

**Job 21:23-25 (MES)** “Some may stay healthy until the day they die. They die happy and at ease. Others have no happiness at all. They live and die with bitter hearts.”

## Why Forgive?

### 1. It \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 3:13 (MES)** “You must make allowances for each others’ faults no matter how nasty, mean, or hard-hearted the other person is and forgive the person who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others.”

### 2. It demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_.

**Psalms 32:10 (NIV)** “Unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.”

**Psalms 33:5 (NIV)** “The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love.”

**Psalms 36:7 (NIV)** “How priceless is your unfailing love! People find refuge in the shadow of your wing.”

**Psalms 130:7 (LB)** “Hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is unfailing love and an overflowing supply of salvation.”

**Psalms 17:7-8 (MES)** “Show me your unfailing love in wonderful ways. You saved with your strength those who seek refuge from their enemies. Guard me as the apple of your eye.”

**Isaiah 54:4-5 (NIV)** “Do not be afraid; you’ll not suffer shame. Don’t fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated...For your Maker is your husband - the Lord Almighty is His name.”

**Psalms 68:5-6 (NIV)** “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families...”

**Ephesians 3:16-19 (LB)** “I pray that from His glorious unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength through His Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love; and may you have the power to understand or to grasp as God’s people should how wide, how long, how high, how deep His love really is. May you experience the love of Christ; though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life in power that comes from God.”

### 3. It gives you \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 1:12 (MES)** “But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become the children of God.”

**1 John 3:1 (NIV)** “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!”