

# The Root That Pollutes: Resources for Biblical Living



## Bitterness: The Root That Pollutes (Resources for Biblical Living) by Lou Priolo

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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In the tapestry of our Christian lives, we diligently seek nourishment for our spiritual growth. We pore over Bible commentaries, immerse ourselves in worship music, and engage with online resources that promise to enrich our faith.

However, amidst this well-intentioned pursuit, a subtle but insidious danger lurks. Like a hidden root beneath the surface, it silently spreads its toxic influence, tainting the very resources we rely upon for biblical living.

## The Root of Pollution

The root of this pollution lies in the unchecked influence of secular and worldly ideologies that have seeped into our Christian spaces. These

ideologies subtly undermine the foundational truths of Scripture, poisoning our minds and hearts.

Like a corrosive acid, they slowly erode our faith, blurring the lines between godly and ungodly influences. They redefine morality, cheapen grace, and dilute the power of the gospel.

## **Manifesting in Our Resources**

The effects of this root of pollution are evident in the resources we consume. Many books, albums, and online articles that claim to be Christian subtly promote these worldly ideologies.

They offer a watered-down version of the gospel, emphasizing self-help over God's grace, and fostering a spirit of self-sufficiency rather than dependence on Christ.

These resources may appear innocuous, but their underlying messages slowly seep into our thinking, shaping our perspectives and influencing our choices.

## **Subtle but Devastating**

The danger of this pollution is its subtlety. It does not come with overt heresy or blatant denials of Scripture. Instead, it whispers its deceptively appealing messages, disguising itself as harmless entertainment or spiritual insight.

This makes it all the more insidious, as we may unknowingly absorb these pollutants and allow them to take root in our hearts.

## Recognizing the Signs

To effectively combat this root of pollution, we must be able to recognize its manifestations in our resources. Here are some warning signs to watch for:

- **Emphasis on self-help and self-improvement rather than God's grace:** Resources that focus excessively on human effort and willpower, neglecting the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit.
- **Downplaying the seriousness of sin and underestimating the power of forgiveness:** Resources that present sin as a minor inconvenience or overemphasize God's mercy to the point of minimizing the need for repentance and sanctification.
- **Redefining biblical concepts to fit cultural norms:** Resources that reinterpret biblical teachings to align with popular ideologies, such as LGBTQ+ affirmation or the acceptance of premarital sex.
- **Confusion of worldly values with spiritual virtues:** Resources that promote worldly success, material possessions, or physical beauty as essential for a fulfilling Christian life.
- **Lack of emphasis on biblical authority and the inerrancy of Scripture:** Resources that question the Bible's reliability or undermine its status as the sole authority for faith and practice.

## Eradicating the Root

Once we identify the root of pollution in our resources, we must take proactive steps to eradicate it. Here are some practical strategies:

- **Discernment and Prayer:** Ask God for wisdom to discern between godly and ungodly influences. Pray before you engage with any new

resource, asking for guidance and protection.

- **Read and Study Scripture:** Regularly immerse yourself in the Bible to ground yourself in biblical truth. This will equip you to recognize and reject any distortions or misinterpretations.
- **Fellowship with Discerning Christians:** Surround yourself with like-minded believers who share your commitment to biblical living. They can provide accountability and support in discerning the truth from error.
- **Evaluate Resources Carefully:** Before embracing any new resource, take time to research the author and their teachings. Read reviews and seek recommendations from trusted sources.
- **Limit Exposure to Polluted Influences:** Protect yourself by limiting your exposure to resources that promote worldly ideologies. Choose wholesome and edifying materials that align with Scripture.

## **Cultivating a Pure Source**

By eradicating the root of pollution, we can cultivate a pure source of resources for our biblical living. This will nourish our faith, equip us for godly living, and empower us to live out our calling as followers of Christ.

Let us not be content with polluted streams but seek out the living water of God's Word and the pure nourishment of resources that reflect His truth and glory.

The root of pollution is a real and present danger to our Christian lives. It can subtly poison our resources and hinder our spiritual growth. But by being aware of its manifestations, discerning the truth from error, and

cultivating a pure source, we can protect our faith and live in accordance with the Word of God.

Let us strive to be like the Berean believers who diligently examined the Scriptures to ensure the truth of Paul's teachings (Acts 17:11). May we also be diligent in guarding our hearts and minds against the subtle pollutants that would compromise our biblical living.

For as Psalm 119:9 declares, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word."



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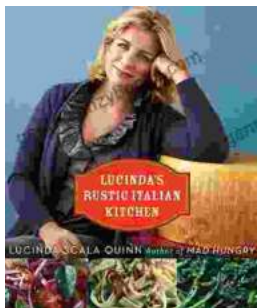
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