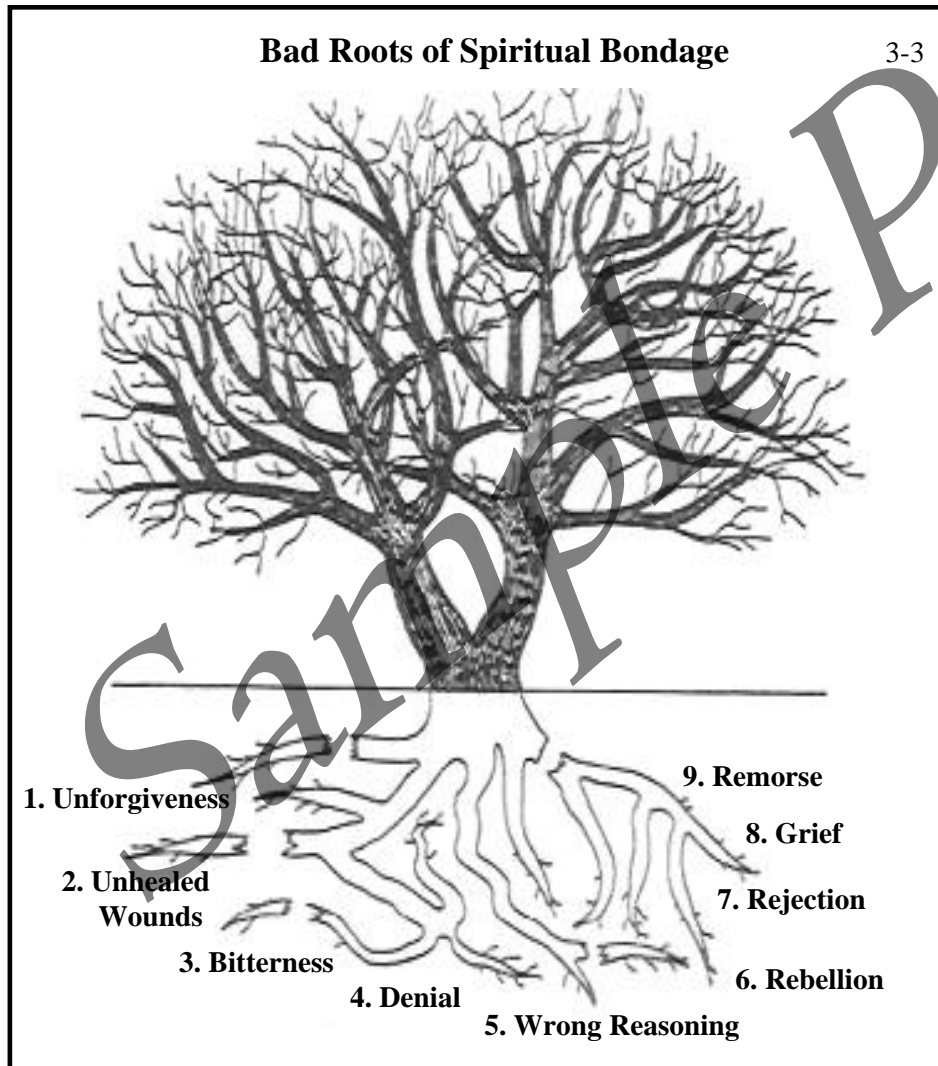


## B. Nine Common Bad Roots of Spiritual Bondage.

(Suggested teaching time: 20 minutes)

Overcoming spiritual bondage is not just a matter of dealing with things that are evident (bad fruit). We must deal with the things that are not immediately evident to us – the roots beneath our behavior.

Stress the importance of this concept. If you keep chopping off bad fruit without getting to the root, it will grow back!



Show transparency 3-3.

Use this diagram to describe each of the eight bad roots that lead to spiritual bondage.

Also, let the group know that this list of eight bad roots is not meant to be exhaustive.

### 1. Unforgiveness. [See Appendix 3B]

- a. Unforgiveness is probably the cause of more spiritual bondage than any other bad root. There is no greater cause of broken relationships than withholding forgiveness from others.
- b. The magnitude of unforgiveness as a bad root is so huge that it even has eternal consequences: Jesus says that if we don't forgive others, His Father will not forgive us (Mt 6:15).

If time permits, see Appendix 3B to read an article about the bad consequences of unforgiveness.