

ROOT TO FRUIT (OR THE 4 QUESTIONS)

PURSING FREEDOM IN CHRIST


IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE. STAND FIRM, THEN, AND DO NOT LET YOURSELVES BE BURDENED AGAIN BY A YOKE OF SLAVERY. GALATIANS 5:1

- 'Stand firm throw off your slavery'
- Slavery to what.....??
- How.....??

- We can gather in a room on Sunday and sing about freedom in Christ and smile, but come Tuesday evening we're back to being angry or depressed or obsessed or whatever other sin pattern has its claws in us. We often declare the freedom found in Christ, but don't see it or experience it in our lives.

- If we're honest, the brokenness of this world and the hurt of our own lives has impacted the way we demonstrate our faith. We believe wrong things about God and we end up bearing wrong fruit in our lives: idolatry and sin patterns. So we must labor to root out these wrong beliefs and continually reassert the truth.

LOOKING AT 'THE ROOT OF OUR FRUIT' CAN HELP US TO IDENTIFY OUR IDOLS AND TO PURSUE FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE TO SIN




WE ALL PRODUCE FRUIT


- The fruit of the spirit is.....Galatians 5 v 22-23

LOVE


LOVE is patient
LOVE is kind
LOVE does not envy
LOVE does not boast
LOVE is not conceited
1 Corinthians 13:4



JOY



PEACE



PATIENCE



KINDNESS, GOODNESS



FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL



....BUT I DON'T ALWAYS OR ONLY DEMONSTRATE THESE IN MY DAILY LIFE

- Sometimes... often, my fruit isn't so good.

BAD FRUIT MIGHT LOOK LIKE.....

Resentment Anger Workaholism Addiction Reliance on comfort

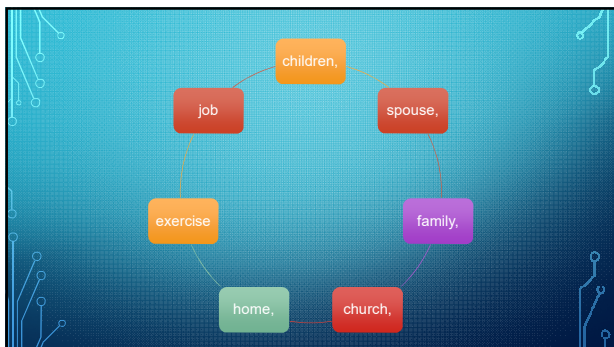
Anxiety
Need for Approval
Pride
Laziness

IDENTIFYING BAD FRUIT CAN HELP US TO PINPOINT OUR IDOLS



IDOLS – ANYTHING THAT WE LOOK TO FOR OUR IDENTITY OTHER THAN GOD

- Such as.....?



BUT AREN'T THESE ALL GOOD THINGS?

•AN IDOL –
•MAKING A GOOD THING INTO AN ULTIMATE THING

MAKING AN IDOL OF WORK

- I love my job
- My job defines me. It dominates my life. If I lose my job I lose my identity and I don't know who I am anymore (IDOL)
- I love my job
- My job is satisfying and pays the bills. If I lose my job I will be upset and a bit stressed. But I am a child of God - my work is a good thing but it does not define me (HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH WORK)

THE 4 QUESTIONS

1.HOW DO I LIVE?
WHAT 'BAD FRUIT' AM I DEMONSTRATING?
WHERE DO I LACK THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



2.WHO AM I?

- What does my bad fruit say about me and how I view myself?

- 3.What do I REALLY believe God has done?

- 4. What do I REALLY believe God is like/ His character?

REVERSE THESE QUESTIONS -

- Re-state the truth about God, what he has done, who He is, who I am and how I can walk in the light of this.

WHO IS GOD?

- 1.What has he done?
- 2.What is his character?

3. WHO AM I IN LIGHT OF WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE?

4. HOW CAN I LIVE NOW??

- I don't need to
- I can let go of my idol/sin pattern and embrace true freedom in Christ

But this requires a change, it's hard to break habits. We can often replace bad fruit with bad fruit

CONFESS, REPENT, TURN TO THE LIGHT

- Therefore **confess your sins** to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5v16

CONFESION - WHY? (BE HEALED, ACCOUNTABILITY)

Why not ?

- It feels weird
- Fear of judgement
- Awkwardness
- Trust issue
- Justification
- I like my idol. It's comfortable.

REPENTANCE

- What is repentance? (it is not remorse or guilt – these are different)
- *I preached that they should repent and **turn to God** and demonstrate their **repentance** by their deeds.*
- *“Therefore say to the people of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!**’ Ezekiel 14 v 6*

WALKING IN THE LIGHT – FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY



MY STORY

- Needing approval– sometimes the bad fruit looks good (reasons don't mean justification)
- Motivation – need for affirmation
- This says that I am insecure, and lacking in self belief
- My heart conviction is that God is insufficient
- He is not wholly good, doesn't care about me sufficiently
- Bottom line – he is inadequate
- I care much more about what people think than what God thinks
- I am believing a lie about God

Fruit to Root Using the 4 Questions

4. How do I live? (Bad Fruit): How am I living now? Where do I lack fruit of the Spirit? What sinful responses or negative emotions am I producing (bad fruit/thorns)?

3. Who am I? (False Identity): What does my bad fruit say about who I believe I am? Where am I finding my identity, worth, or value?

2. What has He done? (Disbelief in the gospel): What does my bad fruit and false identity reveal about what I believe God has done (or not done) through Jesus? What do I *functionally* believe about the gospel?

1. Who is God? (Lies): What does all this say about who I believe God is and what I believe God is like? What lies may I be believing about God's character and nature? What do I desire or worship? What am I looking to for meaning, significance, or security?

4. How do I live? (Good Fruit): How can I live, because of who God is, what he has done and who I am in Christ? How does the gospel free me to live?

3. Who am I? (Gospel Identity): What is my true *identity in Christ*? How has God named me, given me worth, value, and significance? Who am I in Christ?

2. What has He done? (Jesus): What aspect of the good news do I need to rejoice in? How does all that Jesus is and all he has done speak into my situation? What resources are mine in Christ?

1. Who is God? (Truth): What is God's true character and nature, according to the Word? What is he really like? How is he better than everything else I worship? Consider the 4-G's: God is good, gracious, glorious, and great.)