

Roots and Fruits

1. God is spiritual
 - A. John 4:24 - *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*
 - B. His requirements are spiritual. (MB 46.3)
 - C. Romans 7:6 - *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*
2. True obedience includes the spirit
 - A. Matthew 5:20 - *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
 - B. How righteous can a Pharisee get?
 - 1) Philippians 3:6 - ... *touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*
 - C. Actions vs. attitudes
 - 1) Do not kill – Do not be angry
 - 2) Do not commit adultery – Do not lust
 - D. More than merely outward compliance, obedience primarily matter of thoughts/ feelings.
3. Closer look at **lust**
 - A. James 1:14-15 - *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*
 - B. In **every** temptation and sin, lust is a key ingredient.
 - C. **Epithumia** – desire, craving, longing, especially for what is forbidden (*Strong's Greek Dictionary*)
 - D. Romans 7:7 - ... *I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*
4. What's the big deal about coveting?
 - A. Keeping/breaking done **only** in thoughts/feelings.
 - B. God's requirements reach down to innermost desires.
5. Paul's experience
 - A. Philippians 3:6 - ... *touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*
 - B. 1 Corinthians 15:9 - *For I am the least of the apostles...*
 - C. 1 Timothy 1:15 - ... *Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief.*
 - D. Romans 7:9 - *For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*
6. The saints' experience
 - A. Revelation 14:12 - *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*
 - B. Romans 8:4-5 - *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*
7. The nature of God's law
 - A. Matthew 22:37-40 - *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*
 - B. Romans 13:10 - ...*love is the fulfilling of the law.*
 - C. The law is simply the enunciation of the principle of love. (MB 46.2)
 - 1) More than just loving actions.
 - 2) More than just loving choices.

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- D. 1 John 4:8 - *God is love.*
 - 1) Love is a state of existence.
- E. More than merely what we do, God's law primarily about what we are.

8. Are WE love?

- A. If not, God has it covered.
- B. Hebrews 10:16 - *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*
 - 1) New Covenant = keeping the law in our minds and hearts, thoughts and feelings.
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- D. More than merely modifying our behavior, God promises to transform our natures. (DA 172.1)

9. Implementing God's law

- A. State
 - 1) Except for theocracies, the state has no business in legislating God's law.
 - 2) Example: Nebuchadnezzar commanding all to worship God.
 - 3) It can only control behavior.
- B. Employer
 - 1) Similar to state.
 - 2) Even denominational employment, only behavior management.
- C. Church
 - 1) Avoid kingly power.
 - 2) Policies enforcing "right" actions, without teaching "right" principles.
 - 3) Romans 14:5 - ... *Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.*
 - 4) Example: Sing only from the hymnal.
- D. Family
 - 1) Easier to wield kingly power
 - a) Parents stand in the place of God to their young children. (AH 293.1)
 - b) 5th Commandment
 - 2) Goal is still the transformation of character.
 - 3) Some focus on "good" behavior instead of Christlike character.
 - 4) Example: Say you're sorry.
- E. Individual
 - 1) When tempted, how do we react?
 - 2) Retaliate, repress, redeem.
 - 3) Proverbs 23:7 - *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...*
 - 4) Right thoughts and feelings is the standard.

10. Roots and fruits

- A. What defines a tree?
- B. Matthew 7:20 - *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*
- C. Actions are the fruits.
 - 1) Proverbs 20:11 - *Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.*
- D. Character – thoughts/feelings – is root.
 - 1) Proverbs 4:23 - *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

11. God's requirements?

- A. Healthy roots -> good fruits.
- B. We must understand God's plan.
- C. Take care of the roots, the fruits will show it.