

# Roots and Fruits

*John 4:24 - God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

God is spiritual.

His requirements are spiritual.

Romans 7:6 - *...that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

True obedience includes the spirit.

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.*

How righteous can a Pharisee get?

Philippians 3:6 - ... *touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

Can we exceed that?

**Actions**

**vs.**

**Attitudes**

Do not kill.

Do not be angry.

Do not commit  
adultery.

Do not lust.

More than merely outward compliance,  
obedience is primarily a matter of  
thoughts and feelings.

Let's take a look at lust.



What's the temptation process?

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...*



Very short Greek lesson on *lust*.

**Epithumia** – desire, craving, longing,  
especially for what is forbidden

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.*

Epithumia/Lust is there again.

What's the big deal about coveting?

Done **only** in the thoughts and feelings.

God's requirements reach down to our innermost desires.

Paul's experience:

Philippians 3:6 - ... *touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

1 Corinthians 15:9 - *For I am the least of the apostles...*

1 Timothy 1:15 - ... *Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

Romans 7:9 - *For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*

The saints' experience:

*Revelation 14:12 - Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

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.*

# The nature of God's law





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.*

Romans 13:10 - *...love is the fulfilling of the law.*

The law is simply the enunciation of the principle of love.

More than just loving actions.

More than just loving choices.

1 John 4:8 - *God is love.*

Love is a state of existence.

More than merely what we do, God's law is primarily about what we **are**.

Are WE love?

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;*

New Covenant promise

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.*

More than merely modifying our behavior, God promises to transform our natures.

# Implementing God's law

State

Employer

Church

Family

Individual

## State

Except for theocracies, the state has no business in legislating God's law.

Example: Nebuchadnezzar commanding all to worship God.

It can only control behavior.



# Employer

Similar to state.

Even denominational employment.

Only behavior management.

## Church

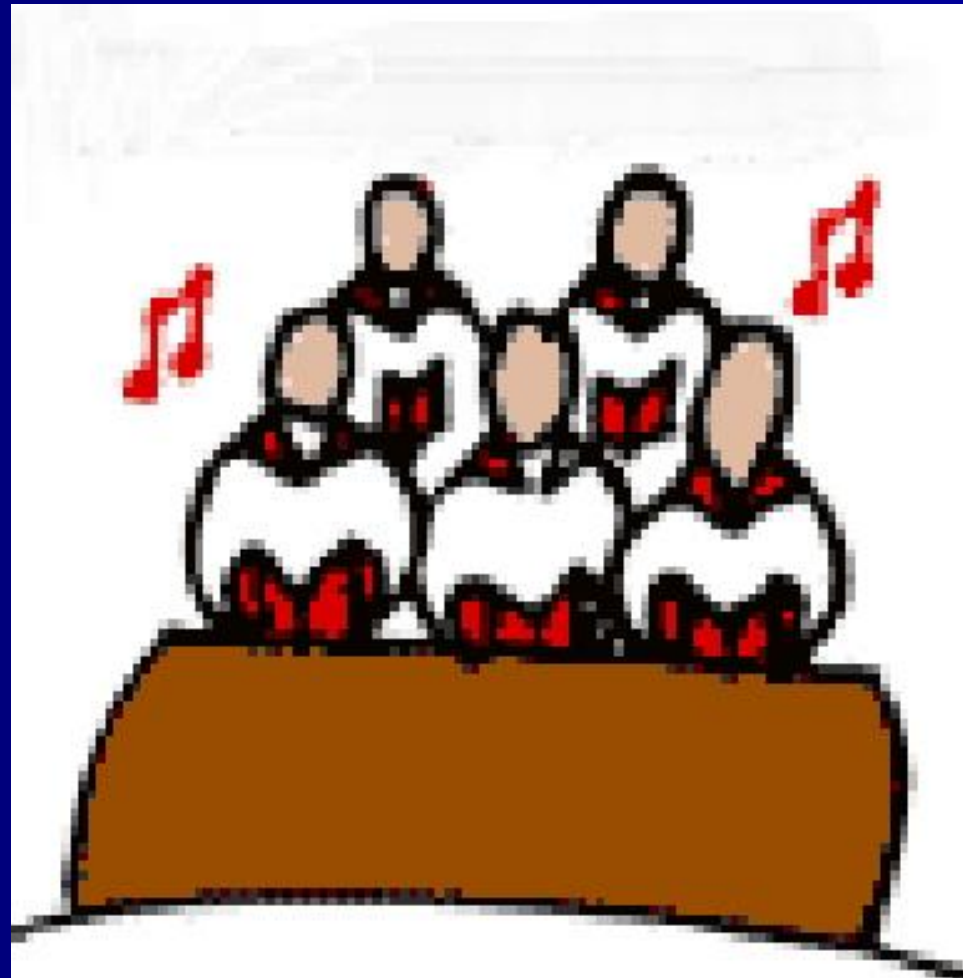
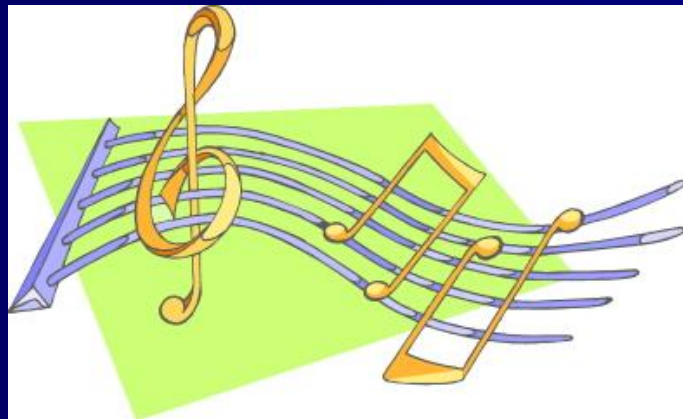
Avoid kingly power.

Policies enforcing “right” actions,  
without teaching “right” principles.

Romans 14:5 - ... *Let each be fully  
convinced in his own mind.*

## Church (cont.)

Example: Sing only  
from the hymnal.



# Family

Easier to wield kingly power.

Parents stand in the place of God to their young children.

5th Commandment.

## Family (cont.)

Goal is still the transformation of character.

Some focus on “good” behavior instead of Christlike character.

Example: Say you’re sorry.

## Individual

When tempted, how do we react?

Retaliate, repress, redeem.

Proverbs 23:7 - *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...*

Right thoughts and feelings is the standard.

## Roots and fruits

What defines a tree?

*Matthew 7:20 - Wherefore by their fruits  
ye shall know them.*

Actions are the fruits.

*Proverbs 20:11 - Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.*



Character – thoughts and feelings – is the root.

*Proverbs 4:23 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

What does God require?

Healthy roots

→good fruits.

We must understand God's plan.

Take care of the roots

the fruits will show it.