

Roots to Fruits: Pests, Plagues and Problems

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1. NEW ROOT SYSTEM

1.1. The moment we are reborn we receive a new root system. We are then able to bear fruit that matches our new root system - The fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]."

1.2. In other words, to change our fruit (behaviours) we have to die to our old root system and be grafted in Jesus and accept His root system as our own. We have to find our new identity in Christ.

Romans 11:17-19 (AMP) "But if some of the branches were broken off, and you [Gentiles], being like a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among them to share with them the rich root of the olive tree,remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root that supports you."

1.3. Our new root system can never be taken away from us. It is eternal.

1 Peter 1:23-25 (TPT) "For through the eternal and living Word of God you have been born again. And this "seed" that he planted within you can never be destroyed but will live and grow inside of you forever. For Human beings are frail and temporary, like grass, and the glory of man fleeting like blossoms of the field. The grass dries and withers and the flowers fall off, but the Word of the Lord endures forever! And this is the Word that was announced to you!"

2. PLAGUES, PESTS AND PROBLEMS

2.1. Our new root system can never be taken away or damaged, but the devil can come with all kinds of plagues, pest and problems (in the form of lies, accusations and all kind of attacks) to keep us from producing good fruit.

2.2. Most of these plagues, pests and problems are birthed through an event in our lives like trauma, neglected or rejection.

2.3. This usually takes place in our childhood because the enemy is a coward and loves to target young, vulnerable people.

2.4. This opens a door for pests or plagues to influence our fruit.

3. EXAMPLES OF PLAGUES, PESTS AND PROBLEMS

- 3.1. Rejection:** It's an evil cycle of self-sabotage. You reject others before they can reject you, because you try and protect yourself. In the process you are often unable to accept love from God and people, and here's the big one, you also can't give God's love to people. You are closed off, cold and aloof unable to get and give love.
Rejection's Antidote: Acceptance - Accepting God's love and our true identity.
- 3.2. Pride:** Pride and rejection often **goes hand in hand**. The pain rejection inflicts on us causes us to **self-preserve and protect ourselves**. Pride can manifest in two ways: **Arrogance** which is normally loud, boisterous or **False humility** that pretends not to be in charge, but actually is because it is selfish, "I am a small little victim", "life should revolve around me and my needs", "How can you keep me happy?"
Pride's Antidote: Humility and yielded-ness towards the love of God and His Word - Humility apologises. God opposes the pride, but give grace to the humble.
- 3.3. Bitterness:** It springs from anger and disappointment because you feel you are being treated unfairly. It is synonymous with resentment and envy.
Bitternesses Antidote: Forgiveness and the acceptance of God's love. The other person might be part of the problem, but the solution is not to try and fix the other person. The solution is to gain a heart that is thankful for God's grace and allow that grace to spill over to others.
- 3.4. Rebellion:** plays out in two ways in our lives: **Aggression** - Direct in your face, in charge, take authority, manipulate people, make them small, and control them or **Passive Aggressive** - Silently rebels, quiet and calculated in their manipulation, strategic and cunning. One is very obviously external and the other internal. But both seek to control a situation and its outcome.
Rebellion's Antidote: Obedience - Rebellion is the inability to be obedient, the bible says we obey because we love. You can't submit or yield or obey something you don't love or trust. That is why it is so important that you accept God's love in your life and know how crazy He is about you. We need to spend a time with God, learn to trust Him completely and submit our will to Him.

Sermon Discussion Guide

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. When looking at some of your less desirable fruit (behaviours), do you sometimes become frustrated and even question if you are even truly grafted in Christ?
2. What are some of the plagues, pests and problems that are keeping you from producing good fruit?
3. How are you practically going to apply some of the antidotes mentioned in point 3?