

WHICH TREE ARE YOU LIVING IN?

October 19, 2005

THE IDENTITY OF A MAN – GRACE: US TOWARD OTHERS

*Genesis 2:8-9 - Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had created. ⁹And the LORD God planted all sorts of trees in the garden—beautiful trees that produced delicious fruit. At the center of the garden he placed **the tree of life** and **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.*

SUMMARY:

Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in an attempt to become more like God, but it led to DEATH. We can pursue a relationship with God based on a ritualistic, legalistic set of rules and regulations, but it will only lead to death. The inspiration to do right, the inspiration to live right, comes not from a set of “do’s and don’ts,” but it comes from a RELATIONSHIP with God through Jesus Christ that brings LIFE!

NOTES:

- In the New Testament – the New Covenant – what did Jesus come to bring? L_____.

Galatians 6:1 - Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

2nd Corinthians 3:4-6 - ...Our only power and success come from God. He is the one who has enabled us to represent his new covenant. This is a covenant, not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old way ends in death; in the new way, the Holy Spirit gives life.

Two people may be found in the same sin – there will be consequences for both – how we handle the situation depends on whether or not there is R_____!

Repentance = G_____ S_____ - That means I’m as sorry for my sin as God is – it bothers me as much as it bothers God!

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: WHICH TREE ARE YOU LIVING IN?

Discussion: Is your pursuit of God based on a life-giving relationship through Jesus Christ, or is it more based on trying to live by a “code” of right and wrong?

- When you discover sin in a brother’s life, what do you do? What should you do?
- Read Romans 5:15-17 – Do you see in this passage the difference between living in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and living in the Tree of Life? How does it apply?

APPLICATION:

If we are able to help repentant sinners through their sin from the Tree of Life – then we are going to see great power, great freedom, and great love in the church in this community! If we cut everyone off regardless of their sin or repentance – we will die!

Why are we avoiding evil? So we can be righteous and judge others? So that we can be religious? So that we can be proud?

There is right and there is wrong! Living in the Tree of Life – in a relationship with God through Jesus – will enable you to live right – shun wrong – and still keep your heart and attitude in order!

ON YOUR OWN...

- Read – Romans 3:23 John 8:7
- Romans 3:10 Isaiah 64:6
- Romans 4:4-5 Romans 4:16
- Romans 5:15-17

Main source - Book: *The Life-Giving Church*, ch. 3 – *Living in the Tree of Life* by Ted Haggard