

Tree of Life - "Intro"

May 13-14, 2017

Community:

1. Mother's Day was this past Sunday. Who are some motherly figures (mom, grandma, aunt, sister, etc.) that have impacted your life? How have they impacted you?
2. When you think of your "roots" what comes to mind? Where do you consider yourself to be currently rooted?

Core:

1. If you were to examine your life, what kind of "fruit" do you think you're bearing?
2. Jim defined being **lost** as being *"Lost from God because unforgiven sin separates us from God"* and said, *"You can also be lost in some of the most important parts of your life where you can't seem to get to where you want and need to be."* Jim also defined being **broken** as, *"Having stuff in your life that is forgiven, just not healed up yet."* With those definitions in mind, would you consider yourself (or any part of your life) *lost* or *broken*? If so, what do the lost and broken parts of your life look like and what do wish was different about them?
3. **Read Matthew 7:15-20.** What do you think it means to recognize someone's "fruit"? How are we (as human beings) like trees according to Jesus? How do you recognize good and bad fruit?
4. **Read Colossians 1:26-27.** What do you think it means to have *"Christ in you, the hope of glory"*? If Jesus were to live inside of you through His Holy Spirit, what do you think could be possible for your life? What do you think could be possible for the lost and broken parts of your life?
5. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** How are these characteristics or attributes of the Spirit like fruit? What parts of the fruit do you wish you had more of in your life? Where do you see the fruit of the Spirit showing up in your life most?
6. **Read Luke 13:6-9.** What stands out to you most in this parable? What are some areas of your life that need some "manure" on them so that they can produce fruit?

Challenge:

Jim discussed three different types of "trees" being: The fencepost with an apple nailed to it (imitating an apple tree), the healthy tree that hasn't born fruit, and the leafless tree that may be in a tired or resting season. Take time this week to pray, asking God to help you see which of these trees you might be. Ask two or three people who know you well to help you examine your life and see where they think you are lacking fruit.

(Please let us know if you are using these questions, and if they're helpful.

Email us at: { [HYPERLINK "mailto:community@flatironschurch.com"](mailto:community@flatironschurch.com) } to give us your feedback)

