

THE FRUIT OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

I. The Distortion of Order

- a. Man is created with an outward focus (Gen 2:15, 19-20)
- b. The effects of the fall:
 - i. The loss of relational intimacy (Gen 3:10)
 - ii. The curse turns man's outward focus to idolatry (Gen 3:17-19)
 1. Man can no longer be satisfied by relationships or work
- c. Man's hope:
 - i. The curse is *purposed* to drive men to God.

II. The Redemption of Order

- a. *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory* (II Cor 3:18).
 - i. Christ is restoring what was lost in the fall (Gen 1:26).
- b. Sanctification: the process of restoration
 - i. Sanctification is discipline (I Tim 4:7)
 - ii. Sanctification yields fruit (I Tim 4:8)
- c. The restoration of relational intimacy:
 - i. *I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men— many concubines...and behold all was vanity and striving after wind* (Eccl 2:8, 11).
 1. The removal of shame (Gen 3:21)
 - a. *My soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness* (Is 61:10).
 - i. Discipline and our identity *in* Christ
 - ii. Knowing “whose” you are and “who” you are
 2. The desire for self-examination
 - a. *Search me, O God, and know my heart* (Ps 139:23).
 - i. Discipline and self-examination
 - ii. The ability to accept criticism
 - b. The removal of shame and the willingness to examine oneself are the foundations for relational intimacy.
 3. The benefits of restoration:
 - a. The hunt resumed (Eph 5:25; Col 3:12-19; I Peter 3:7)
 - i. The discipline of *knowing* and *loving* your wife
 - b. Sexual intimacy (Gen 4:1)
 - i. The fruit of knowing and loving your wife
 - ii. The discipline of purity and control
- d. The restoration of our labors:
 - i. *I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind* (Eccl 1:14).
 1. Purpose: I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23-24; Ecclesiastes 9:10a
 - a. *Soli Deo Gloria*—the reversal of idolatry
 2. Balance: Ecclesiastes 3:1; Proverbs 26:7; Proverbs 30:7-9
 - a. Balance—the reversal of consumption
 3. Order: Matthew 6:33; I Corinthians 14:40
 - a. Order—the reversal of chaos
 4. Productivity: Proverbs 14:23; II Thessalonians 3:11
 - a. Productivity—the reversal of sloth
 5. Peace: Proverbs 3:21-26; Matthew 7:24-25
 - a. Peace—the reversal of fear
- e. The restoration of relational intimacy and labor is found in the shadow of the cross.
 - i. *I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten* (Joel 2:25).
 - ii. *He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness* (Ps 23:3).