

Trees 4

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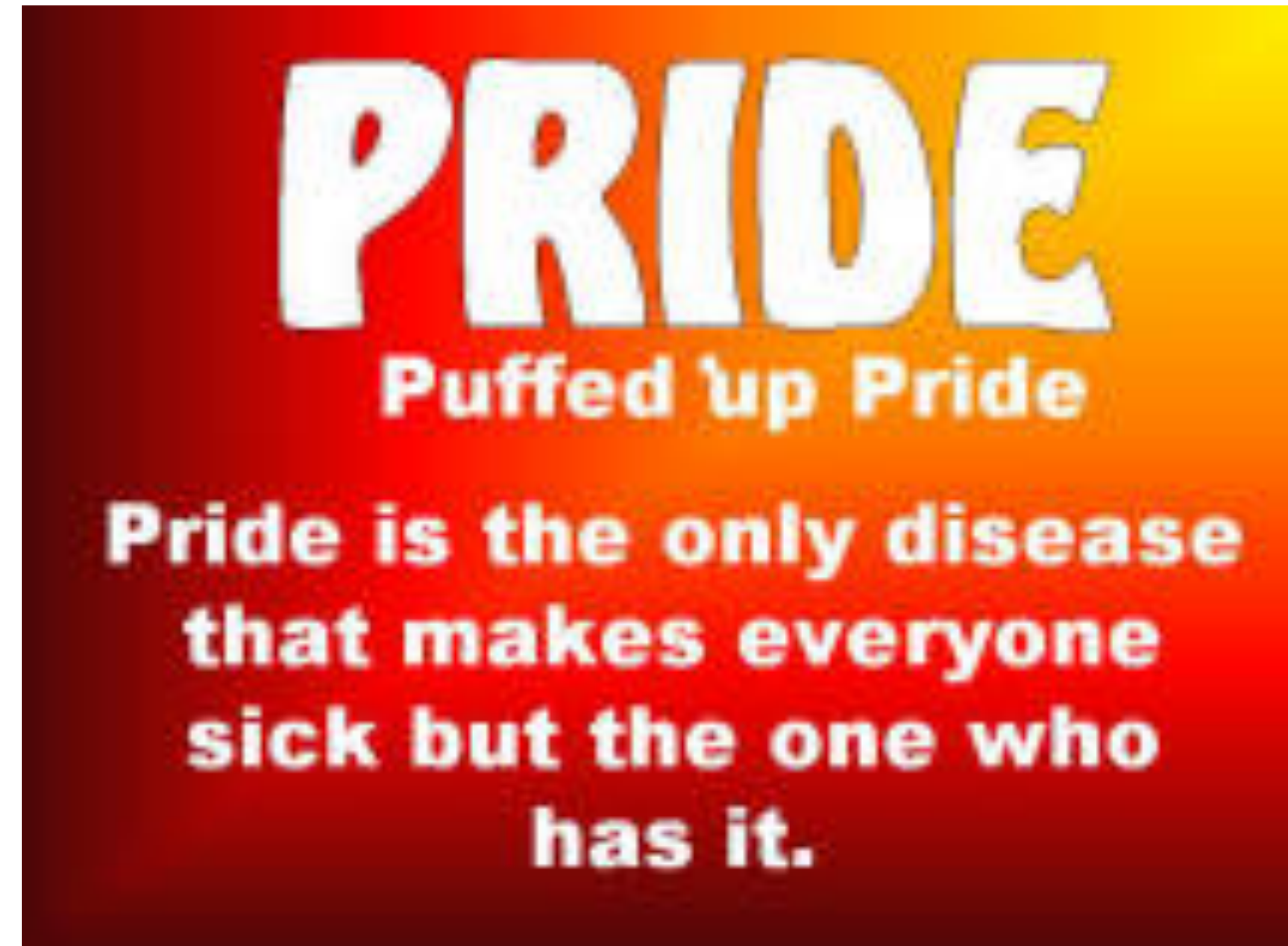
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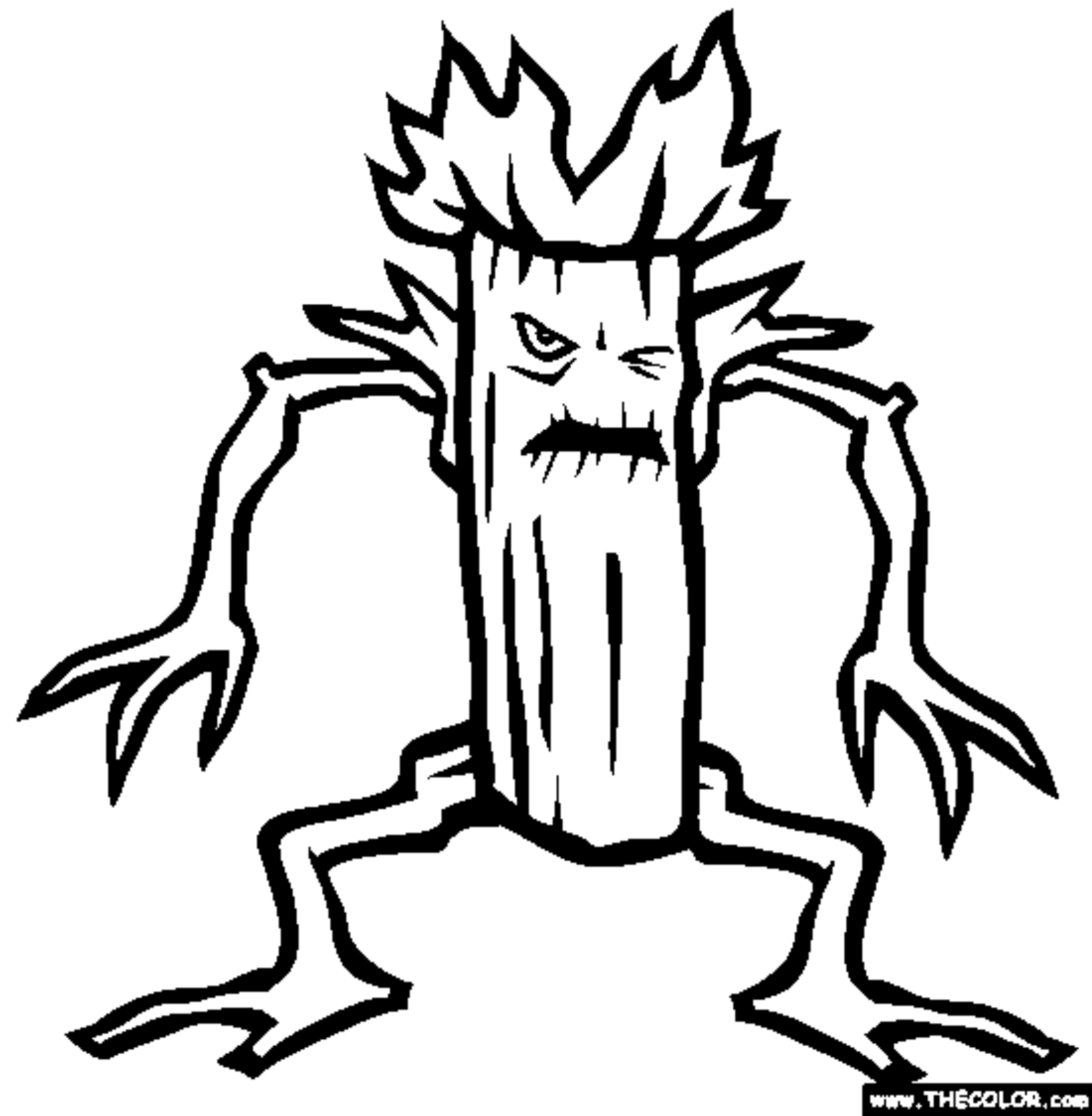
- A good tree is known by good fruit. When we produce good things, we are testifying of the goodness that is within us. *Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*
- Fruit does not allow us to pretend. It will always tell the truth about us and our commitment to do what is right. A person that does what is right will reap the benefits of it. *Hos. 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.*
- Salvation may save our souls but it should also alter our fruit. When we are cleansed from sin, we should bear the fruit of righteousness. Our families should be the first example of what we profess. *Rom. 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*



- To make the tree good, we must first recognize when the tree is corrupt. Knowing what we are doing wrong is the key to getting help. *2Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*
- Pride makes us cover up our wrongs or masquerade as something that we are not. When we are puffed up, we cannot be helped. *Psa. 101:5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.*
- A puffed up person justifies their issues by blaming others for them. When you blame others and do not own your error, you can never bear good fruit. Fruit will always remain in the same condition as the tree. *Matt. 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*



- Sin from our past should no longer affect our present fruit. If we have been replanted, pruned and nourished properly, then we should become fruit-bearing trees no matter what our original state was. *Psa. 104:16 The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;*
- We were all rotten trees until God replanted us. Now, His Word and the fellowship of believers can reinvigorate us so we can bear fruit. Once Christ becomes our vine, our branches and leaves should become fruitful. *John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
- We can claim salvation, brag on our kingdom citizenship, and even gloat about being a strong believer, but if our fruit is bad, then the tree is corrupt and is only good for firewood. All of his works will be burned up. *John 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*



SUMMARY

In Matthew chapter 12, Jesus makes references to allegiance. Whose side are you really on? If you are with Satan, then be with Satan. But if you are in Christ, then bear good fruit! Making clear distinctions is the theme of this passage. He is making a difference between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. Ultimately, it's up to us to make the tree bear good fruit or corrupt fruit. Christ commands us to make it one or the other. He is also inadvertently stating that it will be one or the other regardless of us making a verbal declaration. Our actions choose for us and if we do what is good, it is telling of the condition of the tree.

If we bear good fruit then we have made the tree good for God's purpose. When the fruit is corrupt (bad children, bad marriages, bad reputations, bad feelings toward one another, bad deeds, etc) then we know that the tree was made corrupt and will either be cut down because of pride or replanted because of surrender. The choice is always ours. What kind of tree will you be?

Matt. 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Matt. 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Matt. 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Matt. 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.