

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

More Family Matters *(The Fourth Soil)*

Last week – **Matthew 12:46-13:23** (Matt.5:6)

- Jesus identifies His family as those who hunger and thirst for, pursue and live to know and do the will of God.
- He explains the meaning of the parable to those who ask

Mark 4:33-34, “With many such parables He spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to His own disciples He explained everything.”

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According to the parable of the soil, $\frac{3}{4}$ of those who heard Him did not benefit.

I believe the third soil represents the greatest threat

Matthew 13:22, (John 15:16)

“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and **the cares of this world** and the deceitfulness of riches **choke the word**, and he **becomes** unfruitful.”

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It has always been so

Psalms 1:1-3

Bearing God’s fruit as His people has always been normal...

- And contrary to the godless, worldly culture around us

Colossians 1:3-6

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The cares of this world are the choking thorns

What are God’s fruits the thorns attack?

Galatians 5:22-23,

“But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**. Against such things there is no law.”

.....
Romans 12:2 & 9,

“**Do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

“Let love be without hypocrisy. **Hate** what is evil. **Cling to what is good.**”

The moment we entertain the godless, worldly culture around us...

- We begin to **become** unfruitful
- Evil and goodness both enter **through our minds**
- Eve’s downfall was in **entertaining the question**
- Adam’s was in **following her** instead of God

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We are made in the image and likeness of God

FIRST!

- *We are born into a selfish, sinful world*

Our rebirth in Christ is for fruitfulness... (John 15:16)

- *Our restoration to God given normalcy*

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*Paul says we are **not ignorant of the enemy's devices** (II Cor. 2:11)*

- *His ways are self-direction & rebellion against God*
- *He exalts worldly wisdom above God's ways*

*Our way in Christ is **surrender, submission & obedience to God***

- *In **EVERYTHING!!***

- **John 5:19 & 20:21**

Rejection of God's ways leads only to death

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Our country's culture is increasing the rejection of God's righteousness

Our Allegiance to Christ will be tested

- *Even by family*
- *He doesn't negotiate or compromise*

*Decide ahead of time to **cultivate the soil of your life***

Become the fourth soil

- *His fruitful vine **only grows** there*
- ***He has already appointed us to it***