

**FAMILY LESSONS ON
THE WELLSPRING OF LIFE**

Based on Proverbs 4:23
Stephen E. Danish, Administrator
Immanuel Christian School – Springfield, Virginia

**LESSON #3
RIGHT DOWN TO THE ROOTS**

**“Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.”**

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV84)

If I had an apple tree that never produced good fruit, what would it take to fix the problem? What if I took a bushel of beautiful delicious apples and tied them to the branches? From a distance it might look like a fruitful tree, but soon the truth would be known; because the fruit I tied to the branches did not grow from the inner nature of the tree. They were artificially added from the outside. What if I discovered that my apple tree was actually a crabapple tree? Then I would understand why the fruit was never good to eat. The problem with my tree was in its very nature all the way down to the roots. Until my tree is given a new nature, it will never produce the good fruit I desire.

Jesus said that “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit (Luke 6:43-45). You can’t pick good fruit from thorn bushes or from briars. Good fruit comes from good trees. But you can’t just make a tree good by tying good fruit to it. The nature of the tree itself must be good. Then it will produce good fruit. Jesus was saying that if you want your life to be full of good fruit, then you have to let Him change your nature right down to the roots. Sometimes people think they can cover up their real nature by putting on a good act or an outward appearance. But Jesus said that will never last. The nature of your heart will always come out, sometimes in words, sometimes in actions; but it always comes out. “For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). But how does a person’s nature change? This is a very important question because many people think that their nature can never change, that they will always be the same. But God disagrees. This is why He sent His son Jesus into the world to die for our sins, to set us free from sin, and to change us right down to the roots (Romans 7:4-6 and Ephesians 4:22-24). Change the root, and you will change the fruit.

What did Paul say about sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7-8)?

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.