

Walking in the Truth about Sin

Karen H. Jobes

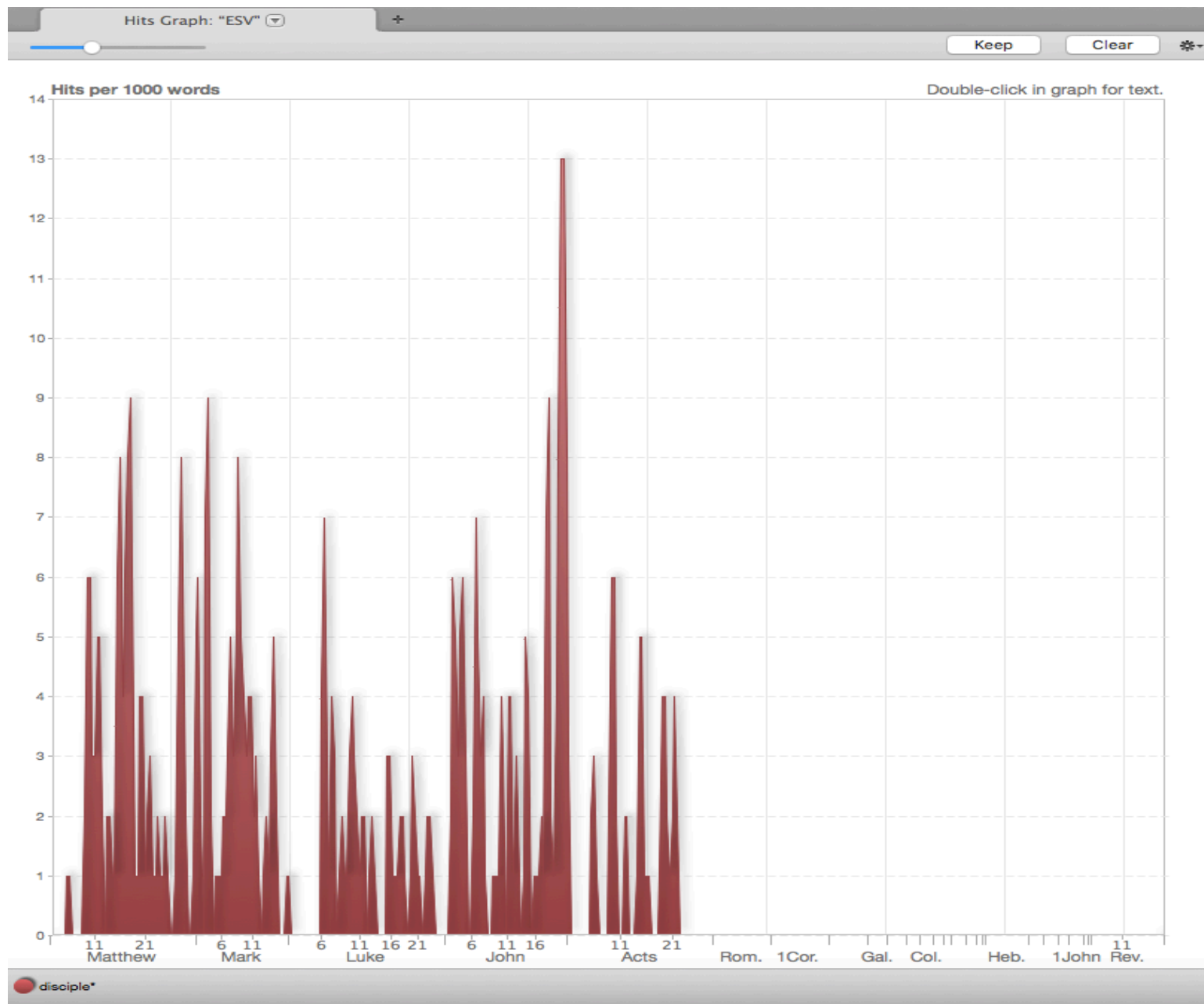
Karen.jobes@wheaton.edu
[Visit me at www.karenjobes.com](http://www.karenjobes.com)

The Ethics of Johannine Discipleship

Believing rightly about Jesus: Christ's life and teaching provide the moral foundation of how God created us to live in fellowship with him.

Major emphases:

- Dealing rightly with sin.
- Loving one another.



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1 John 1:5-2:2

The first mention of “sin” in John’s letters:

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

...

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
[then] we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, his Son, **purifies us from all sin.**”

1 John 1:5-7

What is the central idea about Jesus in this statement?

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My dear children,

I write this to you so that you will not sin.

But if anybody does sin,

we have an advocate [paraclete] with the Father—
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

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“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 2:2

Was John a universalist?

Not universalism, but universal efficacy.

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CENTRAL IDEA of 1 John 2:2?

The universal scope of sin (“the whole world”) has been met by the universal efficacy of Jesus’ death on the cross. We should not sin, but if we do, confession and cleansing is the right way to deal with it.

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1 John 1:5-2:2

1. If we claim to have fellowship with God,
but if we walk in darkness,
 - a. we lie
 - b. we do not live out the truth (1:6).
2. If we claim to be without sin
 - a. we deceive ourselves and
 - b. the truth is not in us (1:8).
3. If we claim we have not sinned,
 - a. we make God a liar
 - b. his word is not in us (1:10).

Walking in the Truth about Sin: 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, *he is faithful and just* and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

How so?

God is not lenient toward those He forgives, rather, his demand for justice has been met on the cross. He is faithful to his covenant promises.

Walking in the Truth about Sin: “Be of sin the double cure...”



“Rock of ages, cleft for me

...

Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed

Be of sin the double cure

Cleanse me from it's guilt and pow'r”

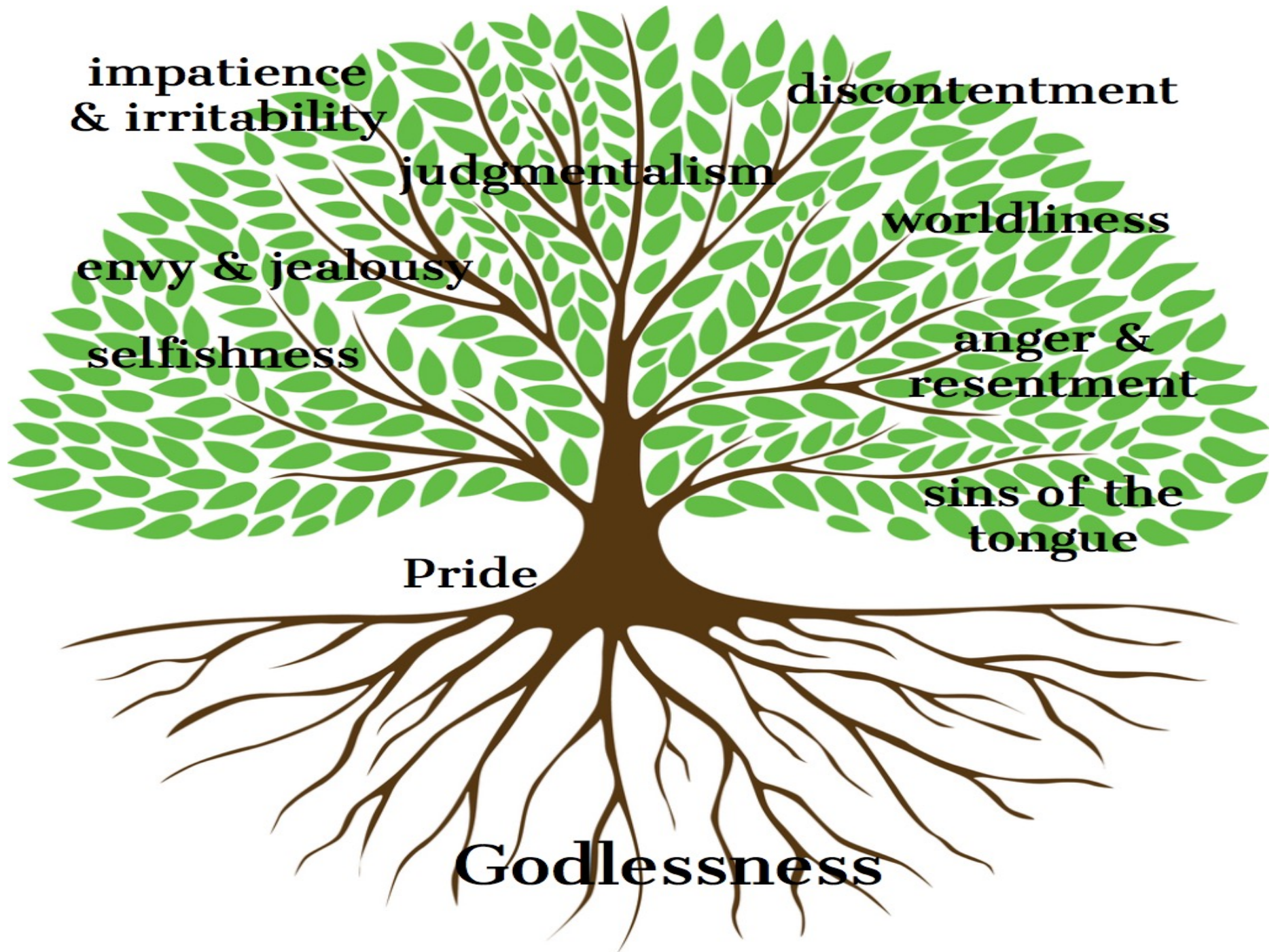
Purifies from past sin (“guilt”) and the Holy Spirit empowers not to sin (“sin’s pow’r”).

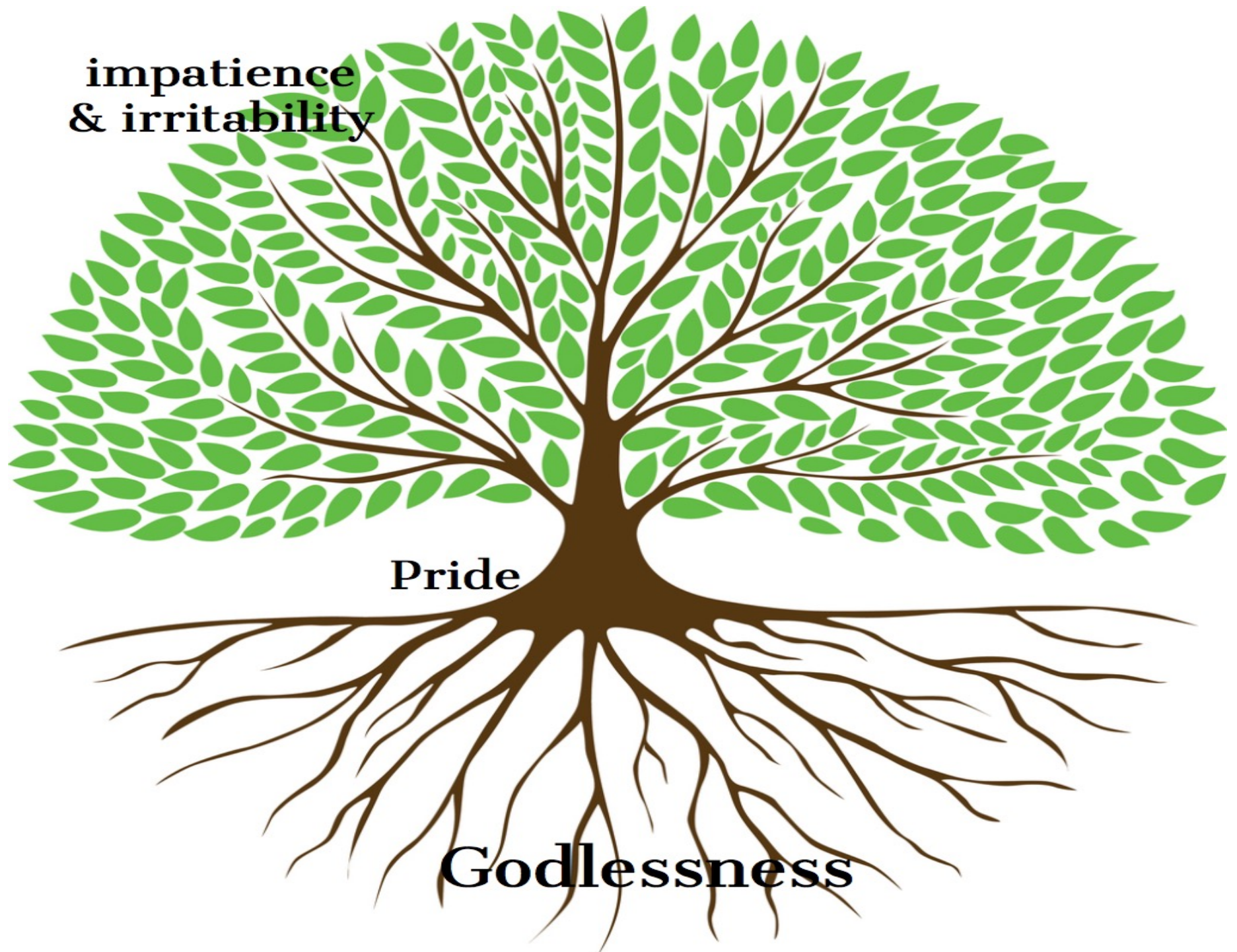
How do we fail to deal rightly with sin?

The subtlety of sin in mature Christians.

“The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.

Who can understand it?” Jer. 17:9

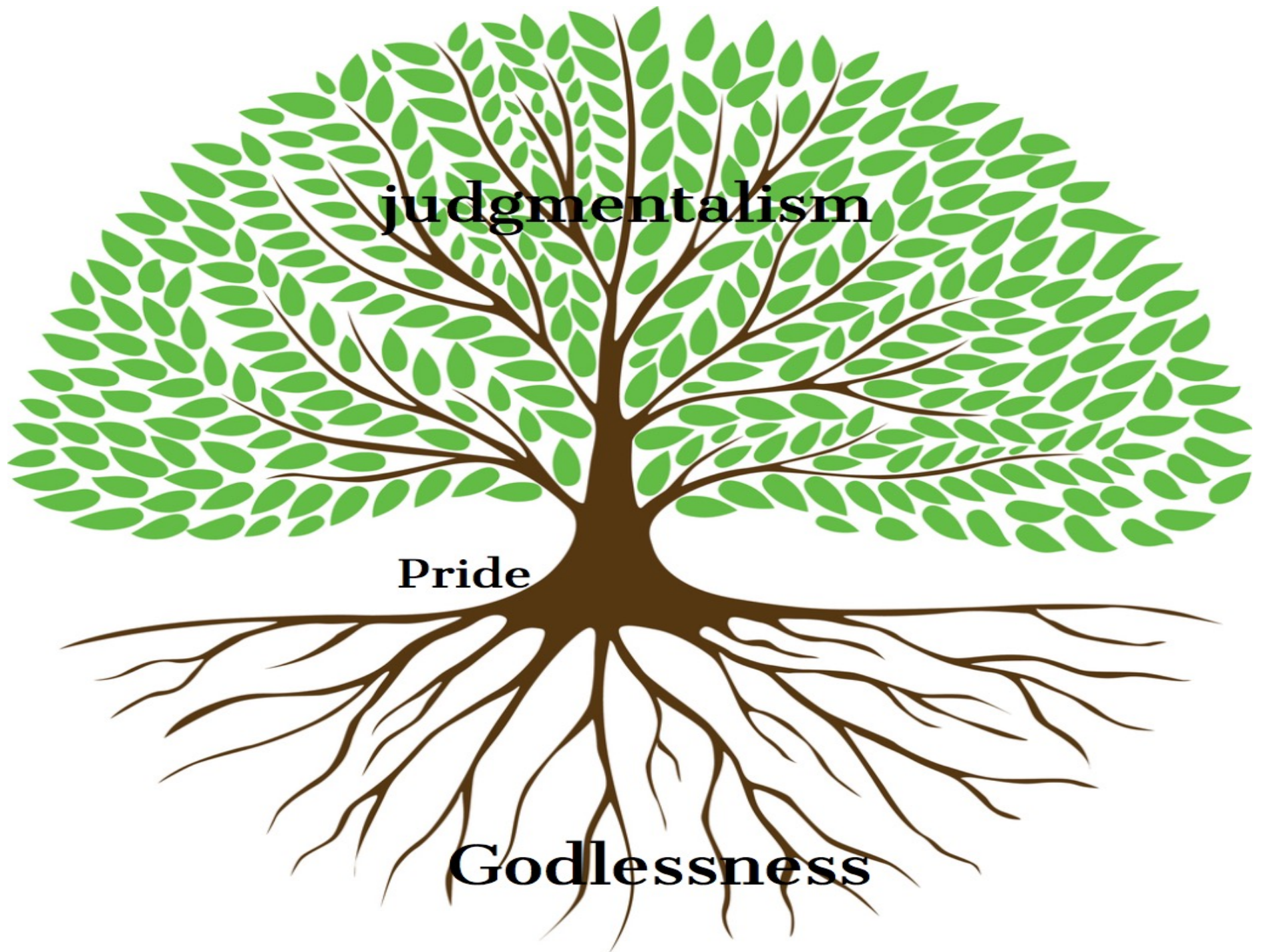


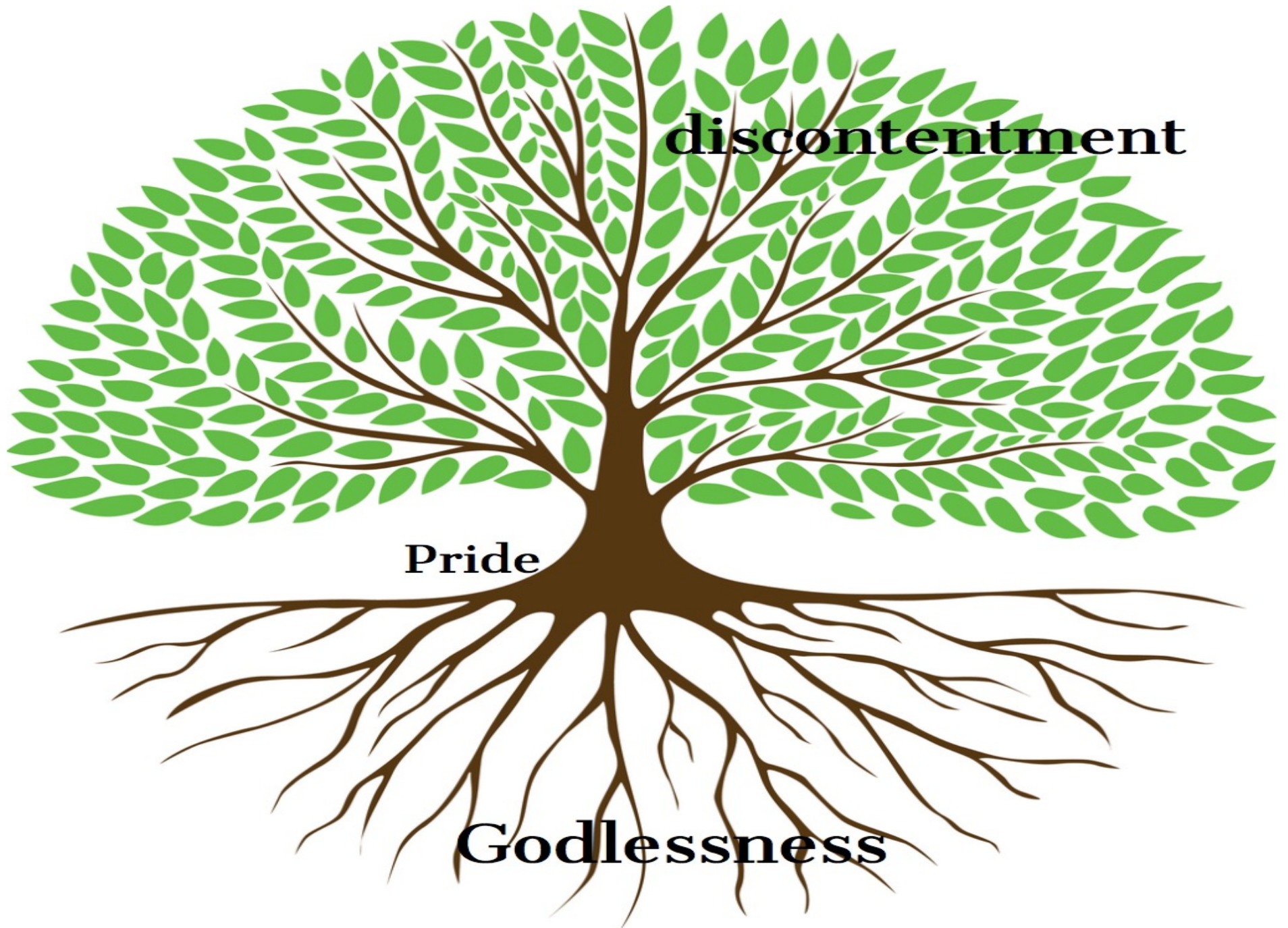


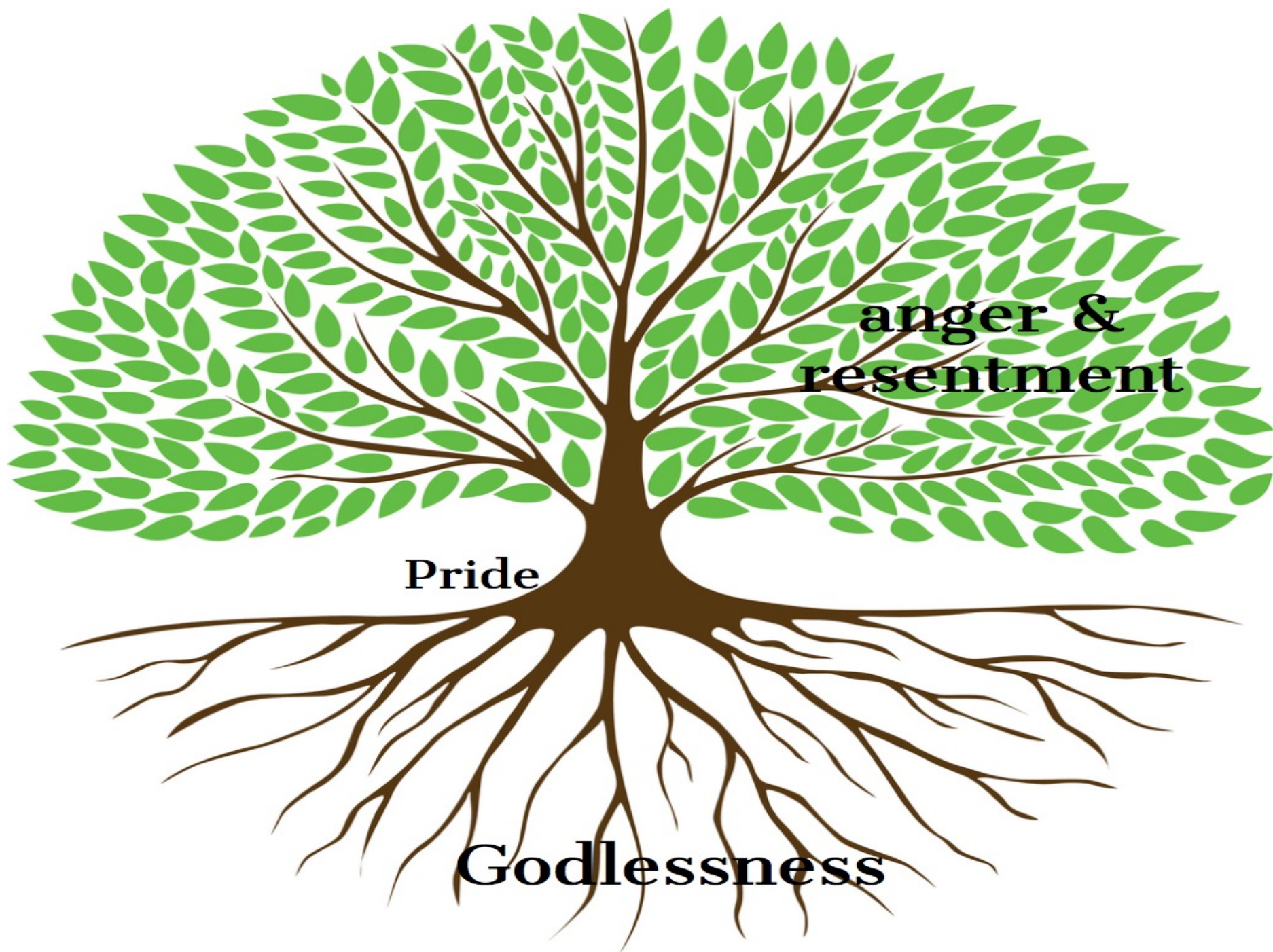
**impatience
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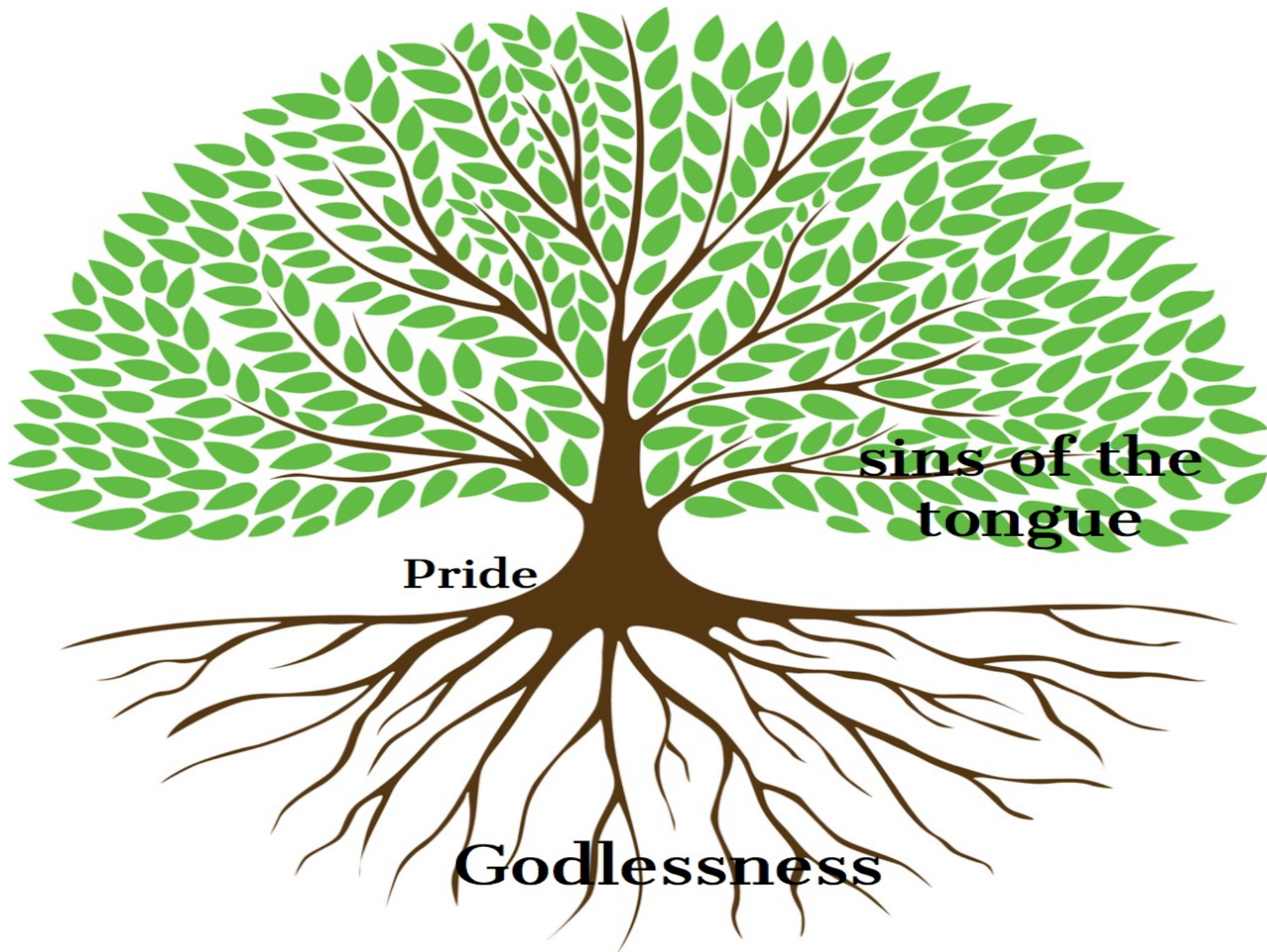
Pride

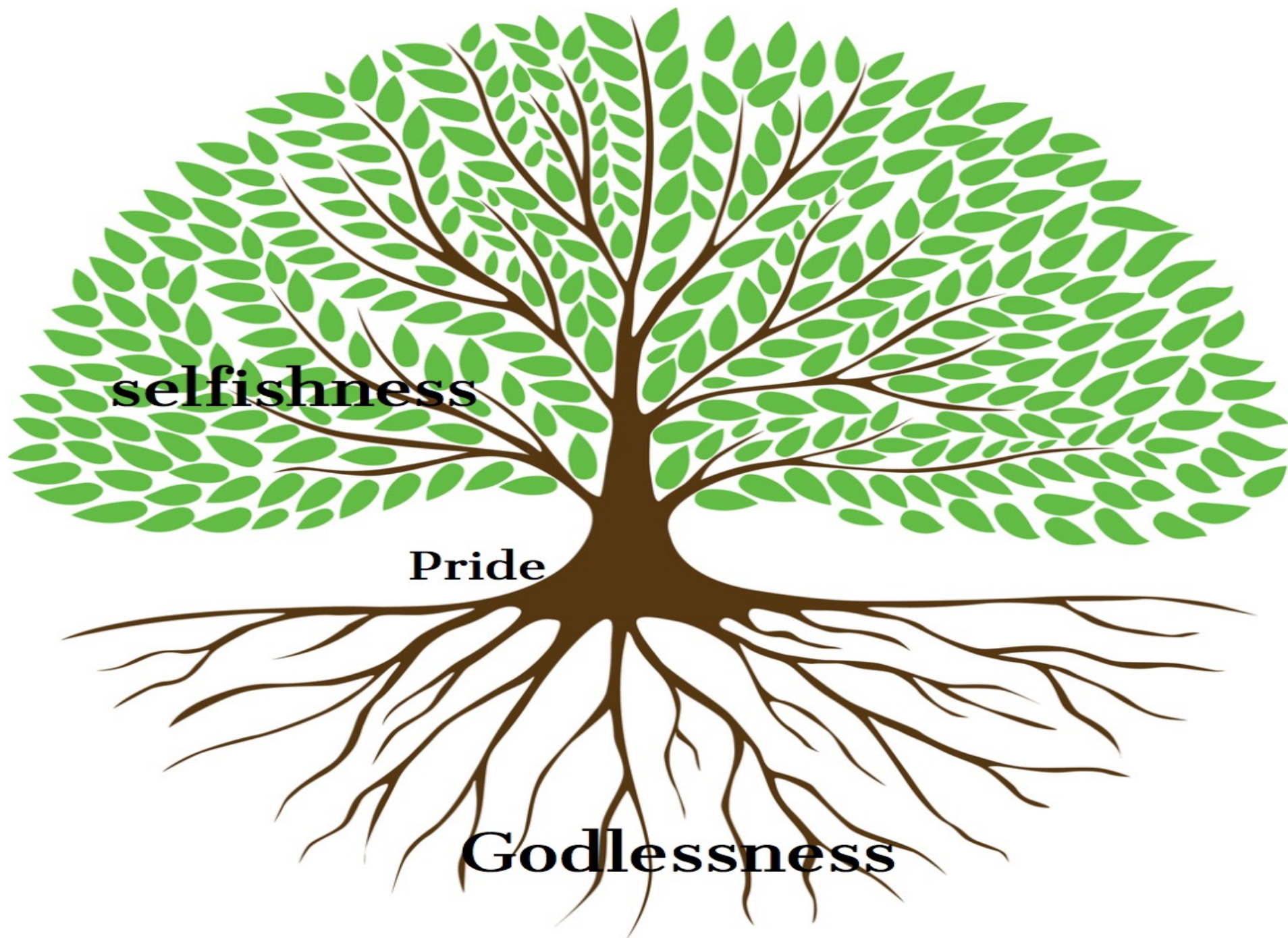
Godlessness







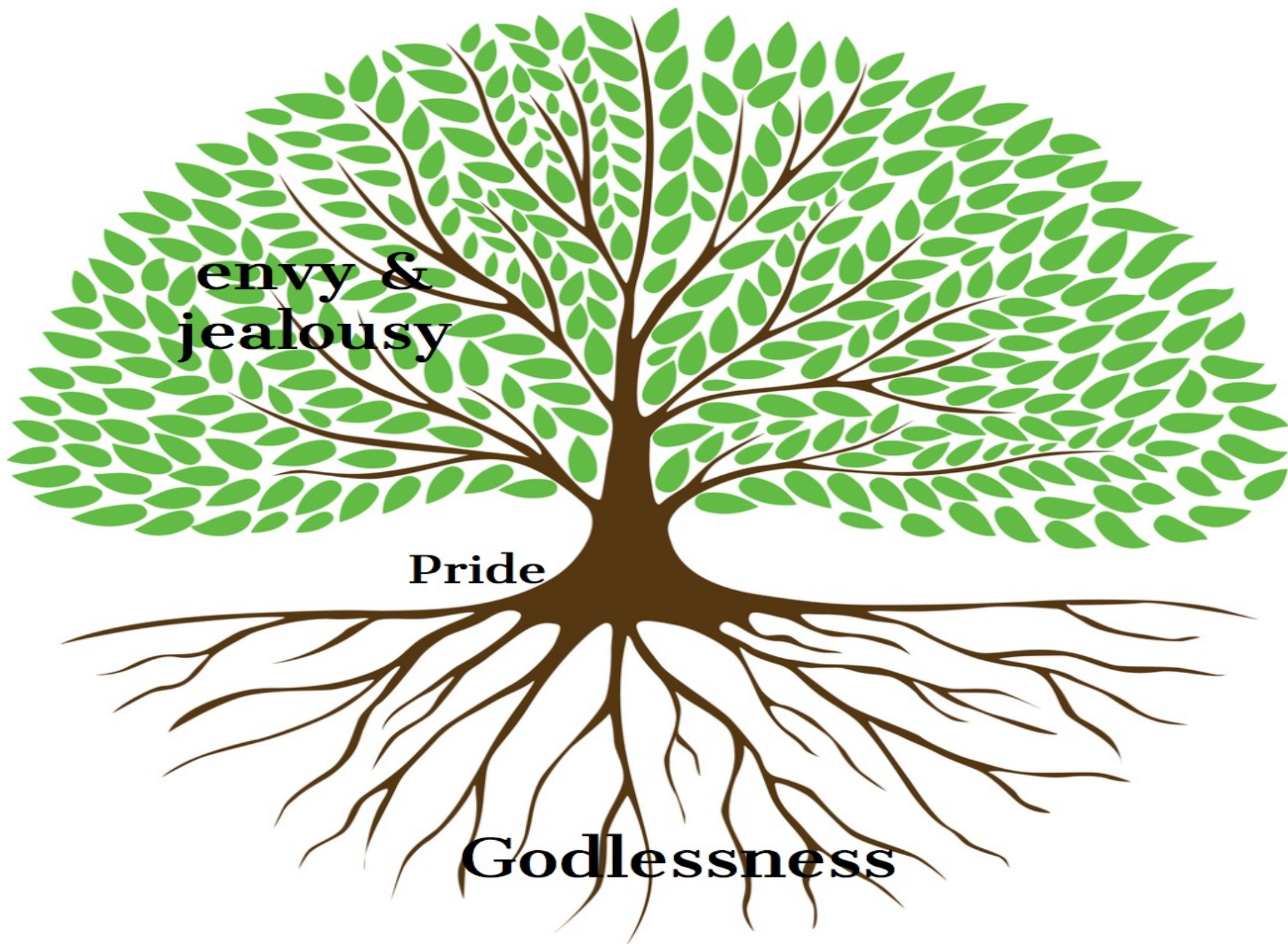


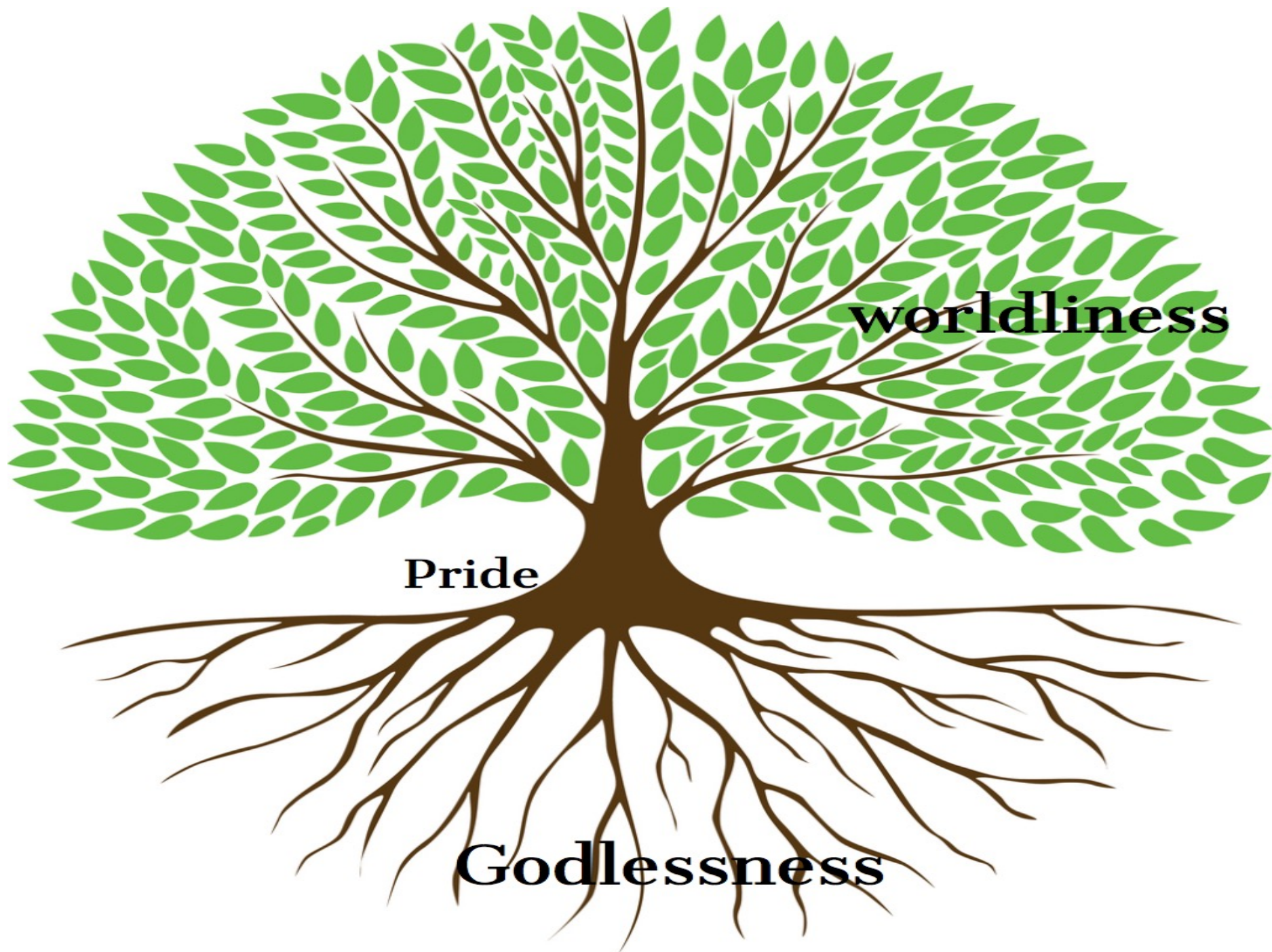


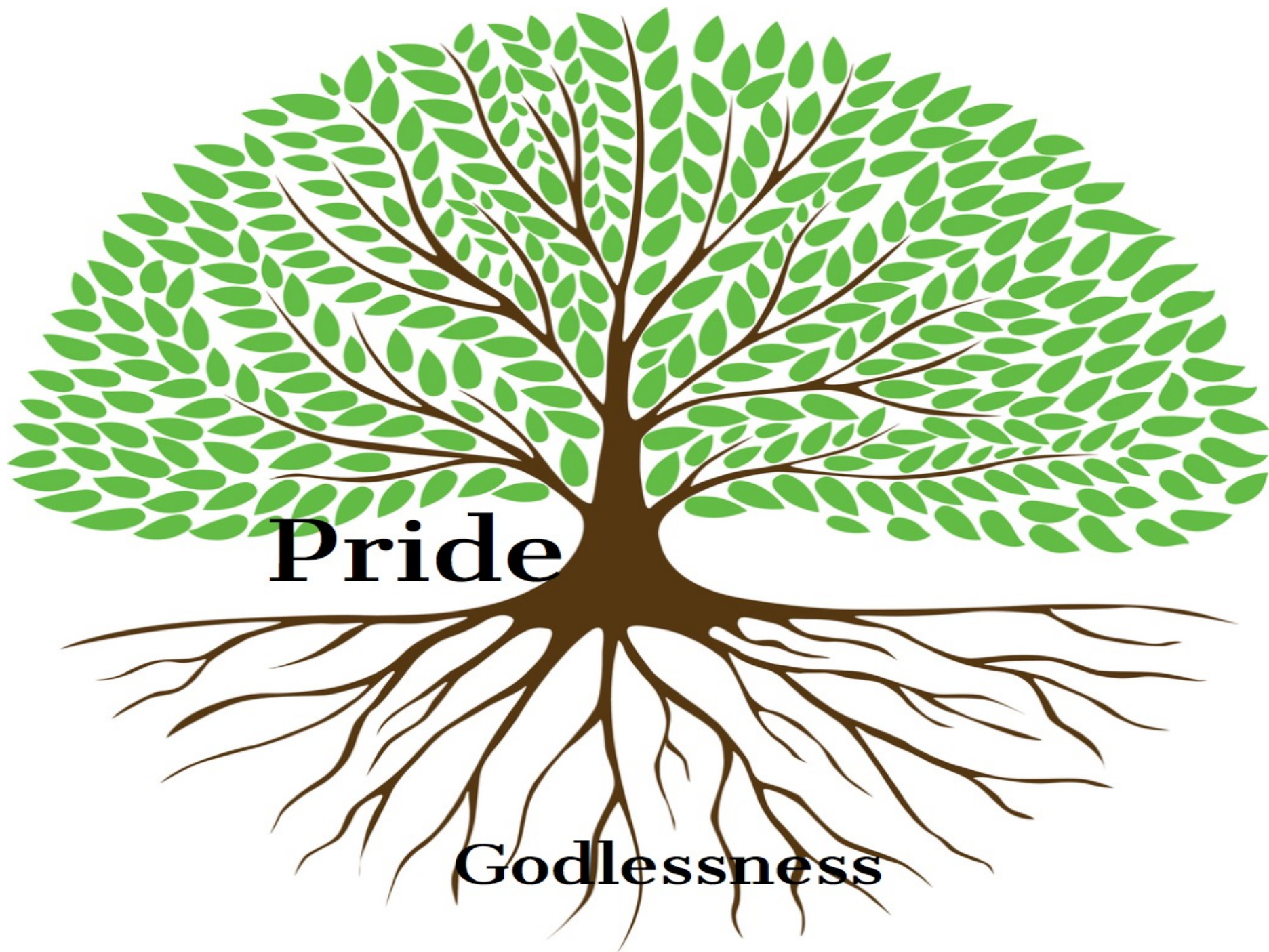
selfishness

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Godlessness



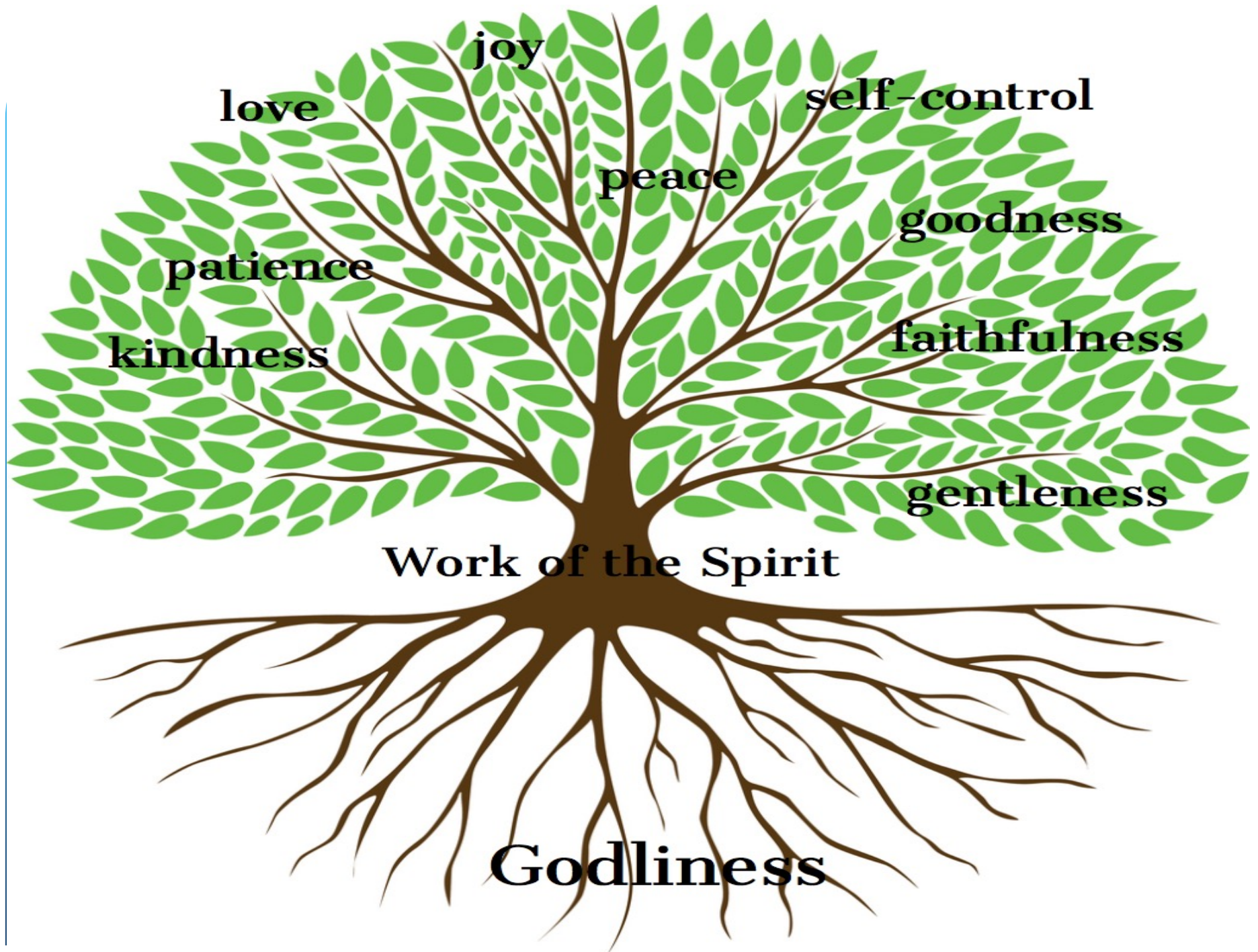




Pride

Godlessness





How to Deal Rightly with Sin

- Agree with God about what is sin.
- Confess sin to God in Jesus' name.
- Avoid doing the same thing again, by the power of the Spirit.

Walking in the Truth about Sin:

1 John 5:16-18

If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that.

All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

Am I Dealing Rightly with My Sin?

- Remember your unconfessed sin in light of the gospel.
- Rely on the HS to give you the motivation and power to change.
- But recognize your responsibility to change.
- Prayerfully look for opportunity to respond differently to similar circumstances in the future.