

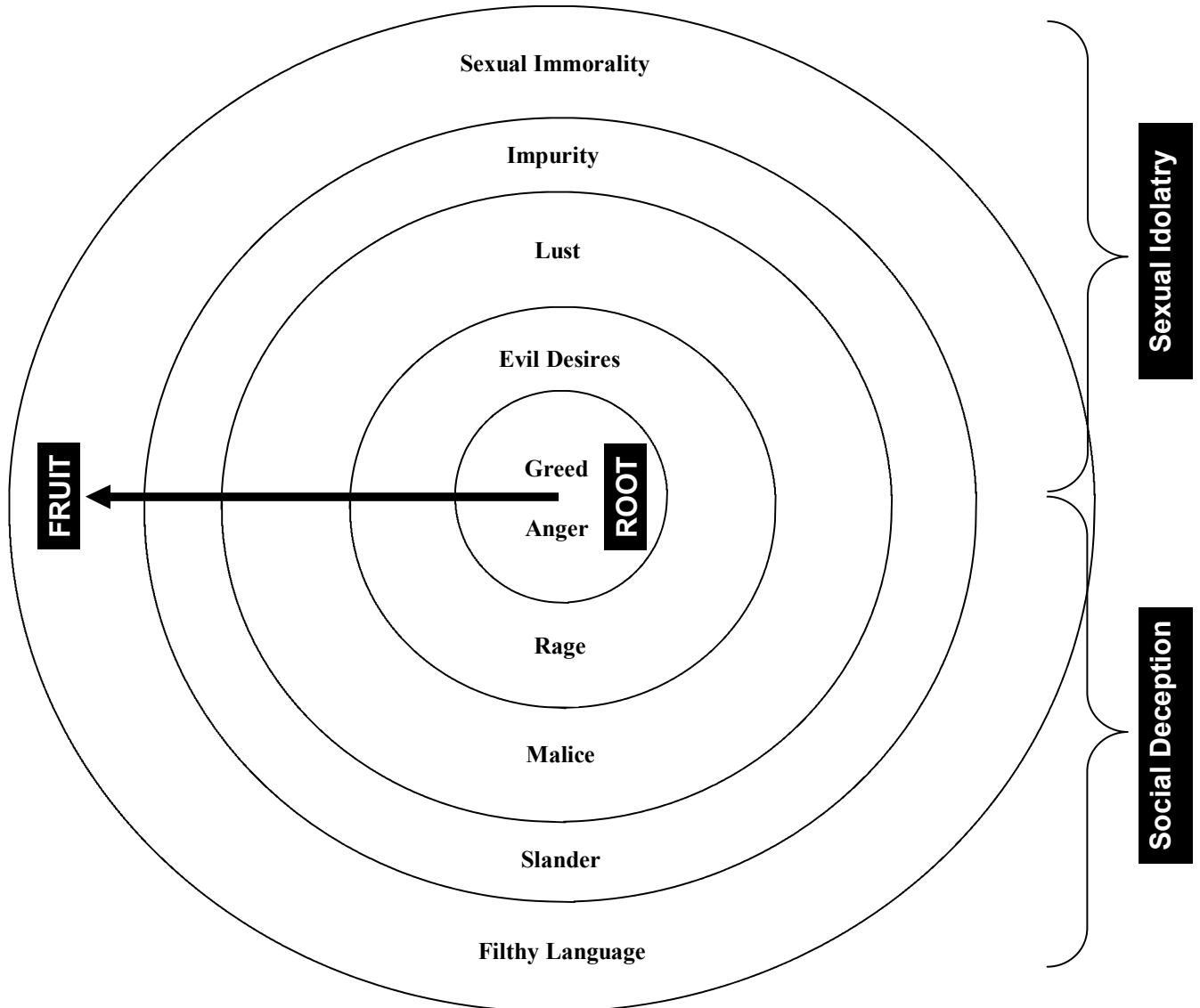
Real Change: ROOT TO FRUIT

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry . . . But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.” (Colossians 3:5, 8)

Sexual idolatry moves from the general (“greed”) to the specific (ultimately “sexual immorality”). **Social deception** likewise moves from the general (“anger”) to the specific (ultimately “filthy language”). Our battle always moves along a line of:

Impulse → Desire → Lust → Obsessive Thoughts → Actions

“Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” (James 1:14-15)



The most effective means to victory is to “put to death” the root impulse (“greed”/ “anger”). We must also “put to death” the more specific desires and actions that arise from these roots, but if we only go after the actions and do not take out the root motivation, we will be endlessly “pulling dandelion heads” and never truly finding victory.