2. Spiritual Fruitfulness

Introduction

What would you think if you planted a fruit tree but it never bore any fruit? At best you would be disappointed. At worst you would probably be thinking, “Now where is that axe?!” Fruit trees are supposed to bear fruit, and those that don’t fail to fulfill their intended purpose!

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

John 15:16

❖ Underline the reason Christ chose us in John 15:16 above.
❖ Frame (draw a box around) the kind of ‘fruit’ Christ wants us to bear.

Christians are new creations in Christ, recreated to glorify Him through fruitful lives!

Description of a Fruitful Life

Fruit has been described as “The outward expression of the inward nature.” In other words, apple trees produce apples, not oranges! So what kind of fruit are Christians supposed to produce?

Since the inward nature of Christians is Christ, the fruit of Christians is the expression of the Person of Christ and His Work!

1. Expressing the Person of Christ

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

Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is the expression of the Person of Christ in our lives! Note that the word fruit is singular indicating the unity of all the qualities.
❖ Circle and Recite each character quality listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
Examine each quality with their descriptions below.

| Love: God’s unconditional love characterized by self-sacrifice. |
| Joy: God’s joy not based on material things but on spiritual blessings. |
| Peace: the tranquility based on God’s sovereign love and acceptance. |
| Patience: enduring unfair treatment by other people, as Christ did. |
| Kindness: treating others with the same kindness God has shown us. |
| Goodness: expressing the moral purity and righteousness of God. |
| Faithfulness: being as trustworthy as God. |
| Gentleness: displaying God’s humility in our dealing with others. |
| Self-Control: experiencing God’s control over our fleshly desires. |

APPLICATION:

What is significant about the phrase “against such things there is no law”? Examine each quality of the Fruit of the Spirit and ask yourself, “How evident is this quality in my life?”

Memorize Galatians 5:22-23.
Meditate on these character qualities.
Pray for each quality to become a reality in your life.
2. Expressing the Work of Christ

The Christian Faith is not a Passive Faith but an Active one. We are not only called to Believe, but also to Obey! True Faith produces Loving Obedience. So besides expressing the Person of Christ, Christians are to express His Work!

▶ Christ’s Work

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

_Luke 19:10_  
“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

_Matthew 20:28_  
“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

_John 10:10_

❖ Underline the Reasons

Christ came.

The primary reasons Jesus came was to give His life as payment for sin, to rescue sinners from eternal death, and proclaim the Gospel of God’s grace.

❖ Our Work

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

_Mark 16:15_

In Mark 16:15, Jesus gives us a job to do.

❖ Underline our Job Description from Jesus.

❖ Frame two phrases that describe the extent of our job.

❖ Key to Fruitfulness

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

_John 15:5_

❖ Visualize the metaphor Jesus presents in John 15:5.

❖ Underline Jesus’ condition for fruitfulness.

❖ Circle the word that describes what we can do without Christ.

APPLICATION

Remain in Christ by:

✓ Confessing all sins and claiming 1 John 1:9.

✓ Allowing Christ to fill you.

Memorize

“‘For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.’”

_Luke 19:10_

“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

_Matthew 20:28_

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

_John 10:10_

Memorize

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

_Mark 16:15_

We were born to live as God’s children to glorify and obey Him. Our time on earth must be spent completing Christ’s work of teaching others about God’s forgiveness that they might escape the coming judgment.

How does fulfilling the work of Mark 16:15 glorify God?

How is the Vine and Branches a good illustration of our relationship with Christ?

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Hindrances to a Fruitful Life

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus uses the image of a farmer scattering seeds to illustrate the various responses of people to God’s Word.

- **Frame** what the farmer sows in vs 14.
- **Frame each place** on which the farmer’s seeds fell from verses 13-20.
- **Underline** the interpretation of each soil in verses 13-20.

The Four Soils

1. **The Path** ▶ A Hard Heart: A Person hardened by sin so that God’s Word is not received.
2. **The Rocky Soil** ▶ A Superficial Heart: A Person who relates to God superficially, with no depth of faith in His Word.
3. **The Thorny Soil** ▶ A Distracted Heart: A Person preoccupied by the cares and worries of the world.
4. **The Good Soil** ▶ A Devoted Heart: A Person who Receives, Trusts and Obey’s God’s Word!

**“Only One Life Will Soon Be Past, Only What’s Done for Christ Will Last!”**

Mark 4:2-8, 13-20