

Bearing Fruit

1. **John 15:1-10** – Jesus commands us to bear fruit or be cut off from Him and the Father – so bearing fruit is essential to pleasing God
2. The question then is what is involved in bearing fruit and what does that look like in the life of a Christian.
3. Side note: This lesson was sermon request. I appreciate sermon requests, if you have a question or a topic you would like me to address, send them to me and I will attempt to answer.
4. Bearing fruit – observable product of our character (**c.f. Lk. 6:43-45; 8:15; Matt. 7:15-20; Rom. 7:4-5**)

Discussion:

I. ABIDING IN CHRIST

- A. In the reading of **Jn. 15:1-10**, we see Jesus use “abide” 10 times!
- B. WE can do nothing apart from Christ (**Jn. 15:4-5; c.f. Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor. 3:5**)
- C. Baptized into Christ (**Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-5**)
- D. Remain in Christ by abiding in His love through keeping His commandments (**Jn. 15:9-10; Jn. 14:15, 21-24**)
- E. Many want to appearance of being true disciples but don’t want to put in the effort to be connected a to Jesus and abide in Him
- F. Bearing fruit is a result of being connected to Christ.

II. POSSESSING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- A. In contrast to the unfruitful works of darkness (**Eph. 5:11**; works of the flesh – **Gal. 5:16-21**)
- B. Fruit of the Spirit – character of the Christian (**Gal. 5:22-26**)
- C. Seen in our works, the works of righteousness (**Js. 3:13-18**)

III. ABOUNDING IN GOOD WORKS

- A. “let our people maintain good works... that they may not be unfruitful” – **Titus 3:14**
- B. Created in Christ FOR good works – **Eph. 2:10**
- C. God is glorified by our good works, and when others see our good works (**Jn. 15:8; 1 Pt. 4:11; Mt. 5:16**)
- D. fruitful in every good work and increasing in knowledge (**Col. 1:9-12**)

IV. GROWING IN FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE

- A. Beware lest we fall away (become unfruitful), grow in grace and Knowledge of Christ (**2 Pt. 3:17-18**)
- B. Supply in our faith...you will neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Christ (**2 Pt. 1:5-11**)
- C. Grow in our knowledge, then teach others... If we don’t progress and grow – reserved for destruction (**Heb. 6:1-8**)

Conclusion:

1. Bearing fruit involves:
 - a. Abiding in Christ
 - b. Possessing the Fruit of the Spirit
 - c. Abounding in Good Works
 - d. Growing in Faith and Knowledge
- 2.
3. Other considerations:
 - a. While there is an understanding that we will bear different volumes of fruit (30, 60, 100 fold – parable of the sower, 1, 5, 10 talents – parable of the talents)
 - b. This is not an excuse to not grow and be fruitful (again consider the parables – ALL are expected to multiply what they have)
 - c. We need to be sure to be in the Word regularly, pray regularly, practice good works regularly, that we may be fruitful.
 - d. Don’t wait for a ‘more convenient’ season to start.
 - e. Never forget our complete dependence on Christ to do ANYTHING!
4. INVITATION