

The Fruit of the Spirit

May 1, 2022

Galatians 5:16-26

Last week: Jesus + nothing = Salvation. Jesus kept the Law for us!

This week: Fruit of the Spirit!

For you to just have the fruit of sin removed while the plant remains is no good for you and brings no glory to God. God so loves you that He will ruthlessly garden in the depths of your heart.

~ Matt Chandler

The Keys to Producing Godly Fruit:

Solid roots

I must be in the family to produce fruit, that is, I must be saved.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:7-10

For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and ^[d]fatness of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

Romans 11:16-18

My roots must be in the Lord! Without Him I will produce no fruit, fake fruit at best/worst.

Nutrients (water and sunlight)

Water

Plants, particularly fruit trees, are made up mostly of water. Water is vital for growth, no water, no growth. God's Word is our water. However, the tree must have a good drainage system. Too much water with nowhere to go can hurt the tree. This can be true of a believer when we know, study, and delve into God's Word but don't let it flow (obey). A believer, soaking in, without giving out.

Sunlight

God and His Word brings to light that which is darkness to light. Sunlight brings growth. For the believer, God's Word exposes the darkness and gets rid of the junk.

We need each other!

Walk in the Spirit (vs. 16-18)

We shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Our will and His will are still at battle (live in a sinful world and sinful at our core). That's why when we become a Christ follower we still battle our flesh!

The Spirit and our flesh have different appetites.

Solution is not to put our will against the flesh, but to surrender our will to the Holy Spirit.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” **Jeremiah 17:9**

Constant battle (v. 17)

Flesh – things that I (sinful self-want) vs being led by the Spirit.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of^[4]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-13

Know your weaknesses (sinful tendencies) (vs. 19-21)

Fruits of the flesh – Sensual, superstitious, social, seditions (to rebel or revolt) and heresies.

All fruit of sin has at its root, selfishness!

Crucify self (vs. 22-23)

Opposite of my fruits.

We identify with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Abide and provide

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

John 15:1-8

We must remember that fruit is produced to be eaten, not to be admired and put on display. People around us are starving for joy, love, peace and all others. We do not bear fruit for our own consumption. We bear fruit that others might be fed and helped, and that Christ might be glorified.

Prayer Focus:

- **Have I been grafted, that is am I a Believer?**
- **Am I walking in the Spirit?**
- **Am I crucifying “self”?**
- **Am I abiding?**