

That Your Fruit Should Remain

Scripture:

John 15:1-16 “*I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. “*

Introduction:

It’s only appropriate that we examine our own lives as we complete one cycle and begin another. Most of us are plenty ready to make a few new resolutions, set a few new goals or get a fresh start. However, new beginnings cannot be successfully entered into if a proper accounting is not given to that which we have just completed. How can we begin anew if we don’t know how well we have done in the past? Otherwise we just go round and round in circles and never really get anywhere. This is essentially what bearing fruit is all about. Have we borne any? Is it good fruit? What kind of productivity have we had? Once we know what we have done and how well we’ve done it, we can intelligently set new goals for the future.

I. God desires that His people bear three stages of fruit.

- A. Fruit *“²Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away”*
- B. Much fruit *“⁸By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit”*
- C. Permanent fruit. *“¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,”*

II. The process of fruit bearing.

- A. You bear fruit by abiding in Jesus.
 1. Abide = meno = to dwell within the boundaries of
 2. "...without Me, you can do nothing."
- B. You bear fruit by planting seeds for the future.
 1. You must have a vision.
Proverbs 29:18 “*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*”

A pig ate his fill of acorns under an oak tree and then started to root around the tree. A crow remarked, "You should not do this. If you lay bare the roots, the tree will wither and die." "Let it die," said the pig. "Who cares as long as there are acorns?"

2. You bear fruit by getting rid of anything that stunts growth.

- C. You bear fruit by “believing prayer”.
- John 14:12-14 *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*
- I John 5:14-15 *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*

Every Christian needs a half hour of prayer each day, except when he is busy, then he needs an hour.

Saint Francis of Sales (1567-1622)

III. If you bear fruit, you will be pruned.

- A. God is more concerned about your future than He is with your comfort.
- B. Pruning has a purpose.
1. Pruning helps to get rid of that which diverts life from the fruit-bearing branches to fruitless branches.
James 1:2-3 *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*
 2. Everything God allows has a purpose.
Romans 8:28-29 *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*
- C. Pruning is not always pleasant, but it has a good result.
- Hebrews 12:11 *“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*
1. God knows what He is doing as He prepares you to bear much fruit.
Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*
 2. Because God knows what He’s doing, He will not stop until He’s completed what He began in you.
Philippians 1:6 *“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”*

Conclusion:

- A. God desires that we be fruit producers.
- B. In order to bear fruit we must abide in Christ.
- C. In order to bear much fruit, it is necessary that we be pruned.
- D. Pruning is not pleasant to the flesh, but God is good and He loves you.
- E. He’s more interested in your character than your comfort.
- F. God will bring you to His desired “end” for your life.