

We Are Known By Our Fruit

Introduction

1. **Nobody that I know of likes rotten fruit! What is there that is appealing about it? Nothing!**
 - A. **Rotten fruit stinks and it attracts flies, something else that nobody cares for.**
2. **We definitely know the difference between good fruit and rotten fruit. Several times in the scriptures the reference to fruit is brought up.**
 - A. **We need to listen to God and make the application in our life.**
 - B. **Jesus said:**
Matthew 12:33-37
3. **The apostle Paul tells us exactly what the fruit of the spirit is:**

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- A. **Are we producing this kind of fruit in our lives?**
- B. **Every Christian should be bearing fruit, and that fruit should not turn rotten and stink! Let us think about some of the properties of fruit which should be present in our lives as a Christian.**

“Produce”

1. We call fruit “produce” because it is a product of nature and nurturing.

A. Likewise, the “fruit of the spirit” is produced as one is “led by the spirit.”

Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and **you shall not** fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not** under the law.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, **let us also** walk in the Spirit.

2. We are to live by the direction of the Spirit-inspired gospel “the faith” He revealed unto us.

Galatians 3:2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the **hearing of faith?**

Galatians 1:11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is **not according to man.**

3. The only way we can bear spiritual fruit is to abide in Christ.
John 15:1-8

A. What this means is that we must abide in His Word.

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.** And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

4. Good fruit should be produced in our lives through our obedience to the gospel of Christ.

A. Can others look at our tree and see the precious, ripe, good fruit of Jesus hanging from our branches?

“Identification”

1. **Just as fruit identifies its plant, the fruit of our life identifies to whom we really belong.**
 - A. **Jesus said that bearing much fruit (by abiding in Him) shows that we are his disciples (John 15:8).**
 - B. **Bearing the fruit of the Spirit marks us as belonging to Christ. Remember, “by their fruits you will know them” (Matthew 7:20).**
2. **The fruit of the Spirit in one’s life marks him as being victorious over the works of the flesh: “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24).**

1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

3. **The fruit that we bear should identify us as being “of Christ Jesus”, not of the world (Galatians 5:19-21).**
 - A. **Apple tree (apples)**
 - B. **Peach tree (peaches)**
 - C. **Christians (fruit of the spirit)**

SEE CHART

"Maturity"

1. **We understand that fruit must grow to maturity. We do not plant an apple tree expecting ripened fruit to appear the next day.**
 - A. **Spiritual fruit also takes time to develop and mature.**
 - B. **We're encouraged to grow to maturity or perfection in the New Testament.**

Acts 20:32 So now, brethren, I commend you to God and **to the word** of His grace, **which is able to build you up** and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward** to those things which are ahead, I **press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Heb 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us **go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**

2. **The growth unto maturity can only occur when we obey the word of God in our lives. The Hebrew writer said:**
Hebrews 5:12-14
3. **We all need diligence and patience as we grow in our faith and obedience. But we must grow!** (The importance of study and classes)
 - A. **Just as we cut down a fruit tree which never produces any fruit, God will not accept us into heaven if our lives don't consistently bear fruit for Him.**
Luke 13:6-9
2 Peter 1:5-11

Conclusion

- **Is our fruit truly ripening into the fruit of godliness?**

1. **By bearing the fruit of the Spirit, we show Christ to the world.**

Matthew 5:16

Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, **among whom you shine as lights in the world,**

2. **Are we bearing fruit today? YES WE ARE!**

A. But what kind of fruit? Ripe, good fruit, or rotten fruit?

3. **The Family and the Church will inherit a reputation in the community based on the fruit that others can see hanging on our branches.**

