

Sunday AM Sermon
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Glorifying Our Father

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Introduction: (Text: John 15.1-8) Disciples “bearing Fruit” for Christ is one of the more powerful analogies used to illustrate our identification with Christ. Individual application is a must! “*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*” (vs. 5).

I. GOD EXPECTS FRUIT IN OUR LIVES

- A. It is an identification marker of our discipleship: “*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples*” (vs. 8).
 - 1. “*Nothing but leaves!*” (Matt. 21.19)
 - 2. Parable of the barren fig tree. (Luke 13.6-9)
- B. “**Unfruitful**” [AKARPOS] is used 7 times – always negative:
 - 1. Overcome by the world’s cares. (Matt. 13.22)
 - 2. The “*Unfruitful works of darkness.*” (Eph. 5.11)
 - 3. Failing to maintain good works. (Titus 3.14)
 - 4. Failing to add spiritual attributes. (2 Pet. 1.5-8)
 - 5. The result of erroneous teaching. (Jude 12)

II. GOD EXPECTS THE PROPER KIND OF FRUIT

- A. Not all fruit is good fruit!
 - 1. Fruit is identifiable! (Matt. 7.15-20; 12.33)
 - 2. Sinful passions produce deadly fruit! (Rom. 7.5)
- B. The fruit Christ expects from us:
 - 1. Continuous growth! (2 Pet. 1.5-11; cf. Gal. 5.22,23)
 - 2. The “*Fruit of our lips*” – PRAISE! (Heb. 13.15; Col. 3.16)
 - 3. “*Peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness*” (James 3.18 TLB; cf. Matt. 5.9).
 - 4. Plant the seed of God’s word in the lives of others and God will give the increase. (1 Cor. 3.6; cf. Prov. 11.30)

Conclusion: “**Am I bearing fruit for the Master?**” Are you identified with Christ as his disciple, abiding in Him? Identify yourself with the Father in bearing fruit by applying the necessary spiritual attributes to your life!