

Abundant Fruit

John 15:1-17

"Each tree is recognized by its own fruit." Luke 6:43-44

What might be unmistakable evidence that someone is...

an artist, accountant, cook, athlete..., or a _____

"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." Luke 6:45



God wants fruitfulness!

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that **bear fruit** with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so." Genesis 1:11

God blessed them and said, "**Be fruitful** and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." Genesis 1:22

God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful** and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...." Genesis 1:28

In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and **fill all the world with fruit**". Isaiah 27:8

But... "Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it **yielded only bad fruit**." See Isaiah 5:1-2

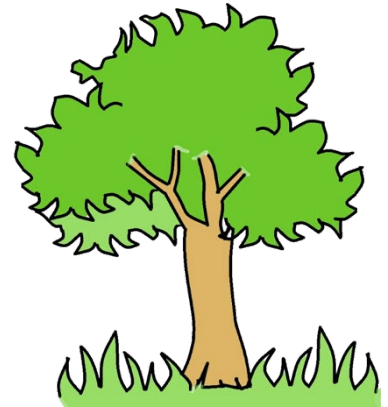
Notes from John 15:1-17

1-4

5-8

9-11

12-17



The Big Idea

A Christian =

someone who lives in vital relationship with Christ (active, personal, obedience, loving others)

bringing abundant fruit to God's glory

The Goal: A Mature Christian

With **new life from God**

in the **Gospel**

we **love** (up, in, out)

and **join His works** (creation, redemption, renewal)

What should we do?

Live daily and personally in Christ

In "vital relationship"

"continue in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus, characterized by trust, prayer, obedience, and joy."

pursue God's Spirit in us richly (be filled),

with His Words guiding us and empowering us

play "catch" with God more often!

Obey

Especially: Love one another sacrificially
Accept God's discipline as His love for us

Pray for and pursue lots of fruit

Fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, ..."
New believers
Even more in others

Making it Real

"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly."
Psalm 5:3
"Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress and he hears my voice." Psalm 55:17
Pray: "I want your joy, and I want it to be complete!"
Help me to obey today: self-sacrificial love, like Christ's love for me

What might be unmistakable evidence that someone is a Christian?

Fruit that lasts

Fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
God-likeness: Faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, love
New & transformed lives: loving people closer to Jesus

How does fruit come?

Vital connection with Jesus: praying, listening to the Bible and the Spirit, obeying, loving, ...

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. God wants his people to "fill all the world with fruit." (see Isaiah 27:8) What does that mean? What might it look like? (consider Galatians 5:22-23 and John 15:12-13) Why does God want that? Do you want that?
2. Read Isaiah 5:1-2 and Genesis 3:17-19. What are the effects of human sin on God's design for fruitfulness?
3. What does it mean to "remain" in Christ? What does that look like?
4. Why do we have to "remain" in Christ? How is the vine metaphor different from the birth metaphor?
5. What is the "fruit" that Jesus wants His followers to bear? How much? Who is glorified by that fruit?
6. How does our obedience to Jesus relate to being fruitful? What is the central command we are to obey?
7. What does it mean to "live daily and personally in Christ"? What does that look like in your life (or what might it look like)?
8. Are there any adjustments you want to make? What will you do? Who can help you actually do it?

Conversation starters

What do you expect to see in the life of a genuine Christian? What have you seen in the lives of Christians?