“Aspects Of Being A Fruit Bearing Christian”

Tape: E- 35   E. Rome  
Time: 5 / 4 /03   11 a.m.  
Text: John 15: 1-8

Introduction:  
Jesus was taking a grape vine in a vineyard to teach an object lesson to his disciples. Perhaps, Jesus took his hands and held a grape vine as they passed by to give the illustration of bearing fruit and glorifying God.

Well, it has been over 2,000 years but we need to learn the importance of bearing fruit in our lives. Let us glean from these verses and think about, ”Aspects Of Being A Fruit Bearing Christian.”

I. The Partnership For Bearing Fruit

V. 5a – I am the vine (Jesus) ye are the branches (Christians)-  
V. 4a – Abide in me, and I in you-

o The branches are connected to the vine. The sap (spirit) comes through the vine to the branches.

o  Listen to V. 5 - Last phrase- for without me ye can do nothing-

o Bearing fruit is a partnership program. Jesus said, ye can do nothing without me.

o We will put more emphasis on that as we move through the message.

o In this parable, there were some branches that were pruned and cut off because they were not bearing fruit, and they were not bearing fruit because they were not abiding in the vine.

o In other words, they were not saved. They were just dead branches not bearing fruit. We will deal with this later on.

II. The Progression Of Bearing Fruit

V. 2- Every branch in me that beareth not fruit- No Fruit
V. 2- last phrase- *that it might bring forth more fruit.*  **More Fruit**  
V. 5 – 2nd phrase- *and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.*  

The Lord goes from **No Fruit**, to **More Fruit**, to **Much Fruit**.

The Lord not only wants us to produce *quality fruit, but quantity fruit.* The Lord wants us to produce a lot of fruit.

The Lord wants MAXIMUM FRUIT out of our lives.

The Partnership For Bearing Fruit  
The Progression For Bearing Fruit

### III. The Process For Bearing Fruit

#### A. The Abiding Factor

**V. 4 – Abide in me, and I in you, As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**

Through **V. 10** – we find the word *abide* 10 times.

Since the Lord puts special emphasis on the word *abide*, he is stressing on the importance of abiding in order to produce *good fruit*.

To *abide* means to have *intimate fellowship*. The *branch* must *fellowship* with the *vine*.

**Question:** How does the *branch* have fellowship with the *vine*?

**Answer:**

1. **Prayer Is Vital To Our Fellowship**  
   ( Prayer is talking to God )

2. **The Word Is Vital To Our Fellowship**  
   ( God talks to us when we read the word. )  
   He tells us how to live.  
   We need to hear God speak through the word. Then we need to *obey the word of God. V. 10 –If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love-*
3. Confessing Of Our Sins Is Vital To Our Fellowship
( 1 John 1:9 .................)

4. Church Attendance Is Vital To Our Fellowship
( Hebrews 10:25..........)

5. Being Spirit Filled Is Vital To Our Fellowship
( Ephesians 5:18 –And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit. )

The Sap that went through the vine to the branches is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the power of God. Without being spirit filled and having the power of God on our lives we can’t abide in the vine. We can’t have true fellowship with Jesus.

There are 2 natures in the child of God. One nature is the old Adam nature, and the other nature is the Holy Spirit. In order to be spirit filled, we must crucify the flesh daily. Etc.

The Abiding Factor

B. The Attendant Factor—-one who tends to vineyard

V. I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
The husbandman is the caretaker or vinedresser.

Let’s talk about the caretaker tending to the vineyard.

1. The Caretaker’s Purpose
   To get branches to bear MAXIMUM fruit.

2. The Caretaker’s Patience
   The Divine caretaker has patience with the branches bearing fruit. When the branch (Christian) starts off being a branch, the branch has no fruit. However, the Divine caretaker will give the branch time to produce fruit, because that is the purpose of the branch.

3. The Caretaker’s Perception
   The caretaker or vinedresser’s main job is to inspect the branches to see if the branches are bearing fruit.
The caretaker *observes* the branches. When no fruit is being produced the vinedresser does what ever it takes to get the branch to bear fruit.

4. The Caretakers Purging

**V. 2** – Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he *purgeth* it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

To *purge* means to *cleanse*.

**V. 3** – EXPLAINS- > Now ye are clean through the word, which I have spoken unto you.

As branches, we are not to get dirty or contaminated. If the branches got on the ground they would get dirty, plus not have the sunlight that they needed to produce fruit.

The word has a way of cleaning us if we will allow it. When the word reveals dirt or sin in our lives, we are to confess our sins and correct our lives, which will allow us to bear fruit.

5. The Caretaker’s Pruning

a) The Pruning Of The Fruitless Christian

The *observing vinedresser*, when he sees a *branch not bearing fruit* or *little fruit*, he prunes the sap sucking shoots that attaches itself to the branch that is sucking the sap and keeping the branch from bearing *maximum fruit*.

*Question?* What tool does he use to cut or prune with?

*Answer: The word of God. Hebrews 4:12* – The word of God is sharper than any two edge sword.

**V. 3-** again- *Ye are clean through the word.*

As *branches*, when we allow things to *get attached to our lives*, that hinders the spirit from working in our lives, those things that are attached *must be cut out of our lives*.

The word has a way of doing that.
The word of God cleans, and it also cuts needless things attached to our lives.

By the way- an expert vinedresser knows when to cut, and how much to cut, and where to cut to get maximum fruit out of our lives.

Yes, sometimes the cutting hurts, but it also helps us to bear much fruit.

b) The Pruning Of The False Christian

Question- What about the branches that are cut off in V. 6?

Question- Does this teach that you can loose your salvation?

Answer- No. I want to point our 2 reasons, then tell you who these branches are.

NO-1 In verses 1-5 the Lord uses the I, Me, & You pronouns-which means he is talking about 1st & 2nd persons. In verse 6 he uses the 3rd person, He, Them, & They.

NO-2 When he talks about cutting the branch off in V. 6 – he is talking about a False Branch, which is a Fruitless Branch.

V.6 – Listen- If a man abide not in me (has no fellowship) he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Now, he is not talking about a FAILED CHRISTIAN, but a FALSE CHRISTIAN.

You see, not all branches are believers. If a branch does not abide in Christ (does not fellowship with Christ) ,or bear fruit, this branch is a false believer.

Notice what happens to them. V.6- last phrase- they are cast into the fire.

Good Reference Verse: Matthew 7: 16 –20 –Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a
corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth evil fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Another Good Reference Verse 1 John 2:19 —They went out from us, but they were not of us, for if they had been of us, they would have continueth with us, but they went out that they might be made manifest that none of them were of us.

If a person never abides in the Lord Jesus, that is—remain in the Lord, he has never been saved.

Friend, it is not the Label that counts, it is the Life on the inside that counts.

Friend, if you are a dead lifeless, fruitless branch, it is a good sign that you have never been saved.

If the sap (Holy Spirit) that comes through the vine (Jesus) does not reach you, the branch, you do not have life, and you are fruitless, and useless for the vine (Jesus) and therefore he will prune you and you will be cast into the fire.

Another Reference verse: Romans 8:9 — last phrase—Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The sap is symbolic of the spirit. If the sap doesn’t get to the branch, it is lifeless, dead, and useless.

If a person claims to be a branch and produces no fruit, it is a good sign that you don’t possess the Holy Spirit, which indicates that you are none of his.

The Partnership For Bearing Fruit
The Progression Of Bearing Fruit
The Process Of Bearing Fruit

IV. The Purpose Of Bearing Fruit

A. The Supreme Important Purpose

V. 8a —Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit—
Christian friend, when you bear much fruit, ye glorify God!
The word *glorify* means to *honor* or *exalt*, to make seem *better* and *larger*.

The main reason that God left you in this world was for you to *bear fruit* and *glorify God*.

**You say, I thought the main reason was to win souls.**

Well, you are right. The progression of glorifying and exalting God is lost souls getting saved. **Listen to John 3:14, 15**—And as Moses *lifted up* the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man *be lifted up*: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have *ever lasting life*.

The Supreme Important Purpose

**B. The Spiritual Influencing Purpose**

**Back to Matthew 7:20**—*Ye shall know them by their fruits.*

Christian friend, if you are a true branch that is attached to the vine (Jesus), and not bearing fruit from allowing *sucker shoots to get attached to your life*, you will not have any influence on lost people.

If you are *bearing fruit for the devil, and* you truly know that you *are a branch*, then the Lord may have to cut you off to keep you from bringing a *reproach on his name*. **1 Corinthians 5:5**—*To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

The Partnership For Bearing Fruit
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The Purpose Of Bearing Fruit

**V. The Promise For Bearing Fruit**

Now, if you are a *true branch* that is *abiding in the vine* or *fellowshipping with Jesus* and *bearing much fruit* there are some promises that you can depend on in the word.

**A. (V.7) An Unhindered Prayer Life**

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V. 7 – If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

When we are praying in the will of God for the will of God to be done in our lives, he will answer our prayers.

Friend, I don’t know about you, but I don’t want my prayers to be hindered.

B. (V. 9) An Unending Love

V. 9 – As the father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

Christian friend, I don’t know about you, but I want to sense God’s love in my life. We will, if we abide in him and bear fruit for him.

C. (V. 11) An Uncommon Joy

V. 11 – These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you.

Christian friend, I don’t know about you, but sensing God’s joy in my life from bearing fruit is worth all the effort of bearing fruit.

When David Stopped Bearing Fruit In Psalms 51: David said, return the joy of my salvation.

When we abide in Christ and have that intimate fellowship, and bear fruit for him, we can live that victorious life.

Conclusion:

Let me give you one more verse in closing. John 15: 16 – Ye have not chosen me, I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit.

Summary

1. We Can Know If We Are A Genuine Branch (Christian)
   (By abiding in Christ and bearing fruit which glorifies God.)
2. True Branches Are Purged and Pruned To Bear Maximum Fruit
3. False Branches Are Cut Off And Cast Into The Fire (Hell)
4. Fruit Bearing Christians Will Reap God’s Special Promises