



The Importance of Bearing Fruit

“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” (John 15:4).

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“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:8)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 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. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 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. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 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. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (John 15:1-16).

Every living thing (natural or spiritual) was created to function and reproduce after its kind, and the principles within this teaching reveals the secrets to achieving these as well as their benefits and consequences of not doing so:

- 1) Recognition of our part as branches in the divine husbandry set up. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches and God is the husbandman (vine dresser) (vs 1,2,5).
- 2) The Father's watchfulness for fruits (vs 1).
- 3) The cutting and discarding of fruitless branches into fire for burning (vs 2,6), to make way for fruitful ones. The ashes become manure for fruitful branches!
- 4) The purging of fruitful branch to enhance greater fruitfulness (vs 2).
- 5) Cleansing through the word of God (vs 3).
- 6) Abiding in Christ, the secret to fruitfulness. Without Christ we can do nothing (vs 4). In what ways can we make Christ the centre of our lives and activities?
- 7) Abiding in Christ and God's word abiding in us produces answered prayers (vs 7).
- 8) God is glorified by our bearing much fruit (vs 8).
- 9) Continuing in the love of God leads to delightful obedience to His commandments and enhances abiding in Christ (vs 9,10).
- 10) Sound knowledge of God brings abiding fullness of joy (vs 11).
- 11) Christians are to love one another to the same standard as Jesus loves us and lay down his life for us (vs 12,13).
- 12) Obedience to God makes us friends of God (vs 14). Christ calls us friends. He taught us all He knew from God so as to facilitate our remaining friends through continued obedience (vs 15).
- 13) It is God that choose us to be saved, not our good works. His purpose for the choice is for us to bear fruits that abide. Doing so, opens doors to answered prayers (vs 16).