

**SUSTAINING THE FRUIT
OF
THE SHARED LIFE**

**APRIL 22, 2020
DURING THE GREAT TIME OUT
MATTHEW 6:33; COLOSSIANS 3:17;
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31**

I. BEARING FRUIT IS DEPENDENT UPON 3 SIMPLE CONDITIONS OF THE SHARED LIFE

- A. *Abiding in Christ - who He is; what He did; what He is doing; and what He is going to do*
- B. *His words abiding in us - letting the teaching, the instruction, the commands, the prophecies of Jesus reverberate in our thought processes and our heart; let them be the meditation of our soul*
- C. *Asking from a changed mindset - viewing life from what steps A & B have shown you - with boldness (whatever you will). This is asking big*
- D. *The result: answered prayer; bearing more fruit than is common; actually being what you have been made, i.e. practicing your new birth*
- E. *This vine and branch analogy is set in the “garden” of*
 - 1. *Progressing faith that God is sovereignly in full control of the processes of history, time and being and that He is working all things together for the good toward those who are in the program He created (called according to His purpose) and who love Him.*
 - 2. *Gratitude, the response to grace*
 - 3. *Praise - heart-felt response to the glory of God/Christ*
 - 4. *Love - That deep abiding presence of God that motivates us to look for the best possible kindness for the object of our present attention*
 - 5. *Appreciation - the outpouring humility that has learned to be content with what you have, to enjoy the beauty of creation, to see with a clear eye the pain of creation and its awesome deliverance, to enjoy the moment now not worried about the future one, i.e. the branch just has today’s sunshine and must live that one*

6. *Confidence, that God rewards those who diligently seek Him, who draw close to Him (abide)*
7. *These are the conditions which make fruit-bearing likely!*

II. SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. *This will war against the remnants of the old man in you! We are used to having the rule and authority!*
- B. *In order for this to take place, you will have to consciously set a priority on doing it. The Kingdom of God is reality*
 1. *You will have to see the hopelessness of worry and anxiety involved in the pursuit of your own security - this is the humility part (humility brings grace; grace brings power)*
 2. *You will have to recognize that God is good and has already undertaken to meet your needs - this is the trust part*
 3. *You will have to recognize and agree that God's kingdom is by far superior to any utopian dream you or anyone else has*
 4. *You will have to recognize that Jesus is the King of that kingdom*
 5. *You will have to recognize that all self-effort is rebellion in the kingdom of God*
 6. *With these things in your thinking and mindset, you will wake each day defining that day as a day in the kingdom of God under the rulership of Christ.*
 7. *Remember this is how the Lord taught us to pray: "...Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." With this prayer being the standard you set for living each day, you will be setting the priority on the reality of the kingdom over the illusion of this world that is passing away*
- C. *Seek first...His righteousness*
 1. *His righteousness is the way God made everything to work together in the world He called "very good".*
 - a. *When it is all working and performing as He intended it from the beginning, that is righteousness!*
 - b. *When righteousness is in place, peace abounds in that thing!*
 - c. *When the things within a body, a culture, a family, a government, etc., are not functioning as they were intended, we have rebellion on the one hand, if the*

malfunction has been intentional, or we have sickness or dis-ease on the other hand, if the malfunction has been unintentional happening by neglect or misuse or abuse

- 2. The fullness of God in all of His righteousness is the glory of God.*
- 3. When the whole earth is functioning as it was created to function, the whole earth is full of His glory*
- 4. When we are doing things they way God has commanded in the way they were intended (His righteousness), we glorify God*
- 5. To know to do things the right way we will have to know what God intended, what the right way was from His perspective.*
- 6. We are so affected by our culture, our gullibility and our lack of desire to question the why of things that we may miss what God intended by neglect or abuse without even knowing it. We may not even understand what to ask!*

Here is the verse we want to meditate upon for next week:

1Co 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (NKJV)

Here are some thought provokers to get your mind to work

What does it mean to do "all to the glory of God?"

How basic are eating and drinking?

What do you eat? What do you drink?

How often do you cook meals from scratch or eat raw or lightly cooked food?

How often do you eat processed food?

Do you read the labels on what you eat and drink?

Do you know the original source of what you eat or drink?

Do you know how it was processed to get to you?

Do you think about what you are eating before you eat it?

Will it spoil or rot?

Is it man-made? Is it a GMO?

Do you understand that what you eat or drink was to be done so in the way it was intended? Does the product glorify God or has it been modified from its original, created purpose?

Has it been robbed of its nutritional value by some process?

Is there a chance that what you are eating could make you sick?