

“A Fruitful Tree”
1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

Introduction:

1. **IE:** In Just A Few Months, The Cold Of Winter Will Be Forgotten, And The Warmth Of A New Spring Will Have Arrived! And With Spring, Will Come New Growth!
 - Grass Will Start To Green! Flowers Will Start To Bloom! And Trees Will Start To Bud!
 - All With The Purpose Of Growth, Beauty And Fruit!
 - As A Boy, Living In Colorado:
 - Had The Responsibility Of Mowing The Yard!
 - In The Back Yard, There Was A Small Sprig Of Growth Every Spring - Not Sure What It Was - But Decided That It Was A Weed - And Just Kept Mowing Over It!
 - After A Few Years Of This:
 - My Mother Decided To See What It Was!
 - Put Some Fencing Around It, To Keep Us From Mowing It Down!
 - Though It Was A Little Harder To Mow, It Was Fun To See This Little Sprig Grow More & More Into A Little Tree!
 - After A Few Years Of Care:
 - Discovered What Kind Of Tree It Was!
 - It Was A Plum Tree! And We Could Tell, Because Of The Small Fruit That Came From That Tree After Just A Few Years Of Growth!
 - Apparently, Someone Must Have Thrown A Plum Pit In That Location, And It Took Off!
 - But For A Long Time - It Never Had A Chance!
 - Because I Didn't Know What It Was!
 - And I Didn't Know What It Was, Because There Was No Fruit!
2. As We Return To 1 Corinthians 10 This Morning:
 - I Want Us To Think About:
 - Not Only What God Has Saved Us From!
 - But What God Has Saved Us To!
 - God Saved Us So That We Might Bear Fruit For Him!
 - John 15:5 - “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!”
 - Bearing Spiritual Fruit Will Be As Natural To A Christian:
 - As Growing Plums Is For A Plum Tree!
 - But As We Go Through This Passage – We Must Never Forget Where This Fruit Comes From / How This Fruit Is Produced / And To Whom This Fruit Is For!
 - Fruit Will Only Come From A Tree That Is Alive!
 - And Spiritual Fruit Can Only Be Produced In The Life Of A Born-Again Christian!
 - Jesus Said: “Without Me Ye Can Do Nothing!”
 - So: If There Is No Life, There Will Be / Can Be No Fruit!
 - The Fruit Is The Evidence Of Life & Of The Kind Of Tree That You Are!
 - So The First Thing To Consider Is This:
 - Are You A Tree That Is Alive?
 - Are You “Abiding In” Jesus Christ?
 - Have You Repented Of Your Sin / And Have You Received / And Are You Believing & Trusting In The Lord Jesus Christ As Your Savior?
 - This Is Where It Begins!
 - You Cannot Have Fruit Without Life!
 - But When You Do Have Life Through Jesus Christ:
 - There Can Be & Will Be Fruit!
 - And In 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 - Paul Helps Us See What That Fruit Will Look Like!
3. Paul Is Still Summarizing His Three Chapter Discussion:
 - On How A Christian Can Live In A Christless Culture:
 - And These 4 Verses Give A Final Plan For The Christian!
 - And He Is Basically Telling Us:
 - Be A Fruitful Tree!
 - Even In The Middle Of The Famine Of This World & Culture!
 - Be A Fruitful Tree In Jesus Christ!
 - How?

- 10:31 - 11:1 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. / Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: / Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. / Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ!"

- This Is What A Fruitful Christian Will Look Like!
- Even When The Culture Is Fruitless!
- So: Be A Fruitful Tree! How?

1. *With The Right Motive!*

- A Famous & A Favorite Verse!

- That Was Especially Important To The Discussion Paul Was Having With The Corinthian Church!
- Remember: One Of The Issues / Questions They Had Was Whether Or Not They Should Eat & Drink Things That Had Been Offered Or Used In The Worship Of Idols At Some Point! And After Looking At:
 - Christian Liberty! Christian Love! Christian Responsibility! To Answer This Question He Concludes:

- 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!"

- In Other Words - In The Context Of These Last 3 Chapters - Only Eat & Only Drink That Which You Can Unto The Glory Of God!
- Can You Eat Meat That Was Offered In Sacrifice To An Idol To The Glory Of God In Good Conscience?
- Can You Drink Something That Was Offered In Service To An Idol To The Glory Of God In Good Conscience?
- Remember: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do **all** to the glory of God!"
 - This Is What A Fruitful Faith Will Look Like!
 - And If There Is The Life Of Christ Within You, This Will Be Your Ultimate Desire & Your Ultimate Motive!

- To Glorify God!

- Jesus Said This Was Our Purpose As Well In John 15:8 - "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples!"

- Is This Your Motive For Living?

- Even In A Godless & A Christless Culture Such As Ours?

- To Do Everything – Everything – Everything!

- Eating / Drinking / Whatsoever You Do!

- "Do All To The Glory Of God!"

- What Does This Mean?

- To Lift Up & Exalt God!

- Is This Your Motive In Everything You Do?

- To Reveal The Glory Of God!

- This Will Be The Motive Of A Fruitful Christian!

- To Reveal The Glory Of God!

- God's Glory Is All Of The Attributes Of God Put On Full Display!

- Remember Moses - When He Wanted To See God & His Glory - God Passed By, But Moses Could Only See The Back Of The Brightness Of His Glory!

- Remember Jesus - When He Was Transfigured Before His Disciples - His Glory Shined With A Brightness From Within!

- Our Great Motive As A Church / Christians:

- Is To Reveal God In All His Glory To The People Around Us!

- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!"

- And Reveal His Glory!

- To Reflect The Glory Of God!

- This Too Will Be The Motive Of A Fruitful Christian!

- To Reflect The Glory Of God!

- **IE:** As Moses Face Shined After Seeing God's Glory & After Speaking With God On The Mountain / As The Moon Reflects The Glory Of The Sun!

- Part Of Our Motive As A Church & As Christians:

- Is To Reflect God In All His Glory To The People Around Us!

- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!"

- And Reflect His Glory!

- Is This Your Motive?

- This Is What A Fruitful Tree / A Fruitful Christian Will Look Like!

2. *With The Right Manners!*

- In The Last Few Chapters:
 - Paul Has Been Looking At The “Manners” Of Christians!
 - And How We Are To Live Within The World & With Other Christians In The Church!
 - How We Live & How We Treat Others Is All Part Of Being A Fruitful Tree / A Fruitful Christian!
 - So: Here Is How You Are To Live & Treat Others:
- 10:32 - “Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God!”
 - “Give None Offense!”
 - As Fruit-Bearing Christians:
 - We Are Not To Do Anything For The Purpose Of Offending Others!
 - This Is An Active Command!
 - “Give None Offense!”
 - We Have All Known Some Christians Who Have Gone Out Of Their Way To Offend Others, Even Just To Make A Point!
 - Paul Says: This Is Not How You Are To Act & Live! Not The Right Manners!
 - Perhaps Some Of The Corinthian Christians Were Doing This On Purpose!
 - Eating Meat Offered To Idols - To Prove The Point Of Their Liberty In Christ - Without Thinking About Christ At All, Nor His Other Followers!
 - That Is Why We Read: “Give None Offense!”
 - But What About Passive Offense!
 - Can People Take Offense At What We Say / Do Without Us Intending On Offending Them? Yes! Happens All The Time!
 - Gill - “For an offence is either taken or given; to give offence is one thing, which we should carefully avoid; and to take it, when there is no just reason for it, is another, and not to be regarded!”
 - So: “Give None Offense!”
 - And The Audience That We Are Consider Is Broad!
 - “Neither To The Jews, Nor To The Gentiles, Nor To The Church Of God!”
 - We Need To Think About How Our Lives Affect / Impact Others Around Us!
 - In The World & Even In The Church!
 - “Give None Offense!”
 - How?
- Avoid That Which Is Sinful!
 - The First Person We Must Refrain From Offending:
 - Is God Himself!
 - And Sin Never Glorifies God!
 - Remember 10:31!
 - But, Sin Is Not Only Offensive To God:
 - It Does Affect / It Does Impact So Many Others Around Us!
 - Sin Is A Offence:
 - To Your Family! Remember Achan In The Old Testament! He Stole Some Gold, Silver, And Some Clothes From Jericho! And It Impacted His Family! Not Only He Was Killed For His Sin, But His Sons & Daughters, Who Were Likely Complicit To His Crime!
 - To Your Church! Achan’s Sin Affected / Impacted The Children Of Israel, And Their Fighting Ability!
 - Even To The World!
 - Where Is Your Light?
- Avoid That Which Is Stumbling!
 - This Is The Context Of This Passage!
 - Don’t Do Anything That Might Cause A Brother In Christ To Stumble In Their Growth!
 - Or To Sin In Their Walk With God!
 - Hebrews 10:24 - “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works!”
- Is This How You Live?
 - Are These Your Manners?
 - “Give None Offense!”
 - By Avoiding That Which Is Sinful!
 - By Avoiding That Which Is Stumbling!
 - This Is What A Fruitful Tree / A Fruitful Christian Will Look Like!

3. *With The Right Ministry!*

- In 10:33 - Paul Shows Them How This Is Done!
- 10:33 - “Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved!”
 - His Life Was All About Service & Serving Others!
 - **IE:** He Desire Was To Be Like A Tool In The Hand Of God! There Is Nothing Like Having The Right Tool For The Right Job! I’ve Learned This In Many Ways! Things Go Smoother / Thinks Go Faster! We Need To See Ourselves As Tools In The Hand Of God – To Accomplish His Will / His Work In This World!
 - Romans 6:13 - “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God!”
 - And This Will Be The Ministry Of A Fruitful Christian As Well!
 - What Should Be Our Ministry?
- For The Pleasure Of Others!
 - “Even As I Please All Men In All Things!”
 - Instead Of Trying To Offend:
 - Paul Tried To Please!
 - Paul Wanted Nothing About Himself To Get In The Way Of The Gospel!
 - His Personality Was Not To Get In The Way!
 - His Plans Were Not To Get In The Way!
 - He Wanted To Get Out Of The Way As Much As Possible!
 - This Is Talking About The Manner Of His Ministry:
 - Not The Message!
 - The Gospel Message Must Not Be Watered Down Or Compromised In Any Way! And People Will Take Offense At The Cross!
 - Paul’s Ministry:
 - Was To Woo & To Persuade & To Attract!
 - To “Speak The Truth In Love!”
 - And To Get Out Of The Way As Much As Possible, So That The Message Might Go Forth!
- For The Profit Of Others!
 - “Not Seeking Mine Own Profit, But The Profit Of Many!”
 - Again - Our Ministry Is To Be One Of Service!
 - Not For Our Profit!
 - Not To Benefit Us!
 - Not For A Notch On Our Belt!
 - But For Other’s Profit!
 - For Their Benefit & Blessing!
 - A Focus On Others!
 - And Can There Be A Greater Benefit Than:
- For The Pardon Of Others!
 - “That They May Be Saved!”
 - Paul’s Great Desire Was For People To Come To Know The Lord Jesus Christ As Their Savior!
 - This Was His Greatest Ministry!
 - And This Is To Be The Ministry:
 - Of Every Christian!
 - And Of Our Church!
 - It Ought To Help Govern What We Do!
- Is This Your Ministry?
 - Serving Others:
 - For Their Pleasure!
 - Again, Keeping In Mind The Other Verses We’ve Just Looked At!
 - For Their Profit!
 - For Their Pardon!
 - This Is What A Fruitful Tree / A Fruitful Christian Will Look Like!

4.

With The Right Model!

- Again - Paul Offers Himself As An Example / A Model To Follow:
 - But With One Important Stipulation:
- 11:1 - “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ!”

- It Is Helpful For Us As Christians To Have Examples To Follow! Examples Like Paul! Perhaps There Are Some Examples / Models In Your Life!
- Following The Model Of Christians:
 - That Is What Paul Is Saying - “Be Ye Followers Of Me!”
 - That Is:
 - If His Motive Is The Right Motive:
 - Then Follow Him - And Have The Same Motive! Be A Fruitful Tree!
 - If His Manner Of Living Is Right:
 - Then Follow Him - And Have The Same Manners! Be A Fruitful Tree!
 - If His Ministry Is Right!
 - Then Follow Him - And Have The Same Ministry! Be A Fruitful Tree!
 - But More Importantly:
 - Paul Reminds Them - He Is Only Worth Following / Emulating If He Himself Has The Right Model!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
- Following The Model Of Christ!
 - “Even As I Also Am Of Christ!”
 - Jesus & Jesus Alone Is Our Right Model!
 - For Fruitful Living!
 - Paul Recognized This!
 - We Need To Remember This!
 - Hebrews 12:2 - “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith!”
- Is Jesus Christ Your Model?
 - Your Example?
 - This Is What It Takes To Be A Fruitful Tree / A Fruitful Christian!
 - Remember John 15:5 - “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!”
 - Jesus Is The Source Of Your Life & Fruit!
 - Jesus Is The Strength Of Your Life & Fruit!

Conclusion:

1. This Is What A Fruitful Tree / Christian Looks Like!
 - Let These Verses / These Truths Govern Your Life!
 - But Make Sure That You First Have The Life That Is Necessary For Growth And Fruit!
2. A Fruitful Christian Will Have:
 - The Right Motive!
 - 10:31 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!”
 - Our Motive - “Do All To The Glory Of God!”
 - The Right Manners!
 - 10:32 - “Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God!”
 - Our Manners - “Give None Offence!”
 - The Right Ministry!
 - 10:33 - “Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved!”
 - Our Ministry - “That They May Be Saved!”
 - The Right Model!
 - 11:1 - “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ!”
 - Our Model - “Christ!”

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com