

Fruit Galore!

John 15:1-8

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Lumberjack and the saw
- “Fruit” is on Jesus’ mind in John 15.
 - John 15:1-8-- *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*
- Fruit is Christ-like character and conduct
 - Galatians 5:22-23-- *“love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”*
- The need for a vital connection to the vine—Jesus Christ
 - Dead branch—no connection, no fruit
 - Live branch—connection with fruit
- The Process of Fruit Production
 - 2 Peter 1:5-7-- *“giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness love.”*

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A. The Dynamics of Mutual Abiding

- John 15:4-5-- *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*
1. **We “abide” in Christ**
 - a. **Relational term describing intimate fellowship we enjoy with Christ.**
 - b. **“Abiding” is on-going, active dependence on Christ.**
 - 1 John 2:24-- *“Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you will also abide in the Son and in the Father.”*
 - 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 continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”*
 - c. **“Abiding” is active trust which results in a fruitful life.**
 - Jeremiah 17:7-8-- *“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is in the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaves will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”*

2. **Christ “abides” in us**
 - a. **Jesus abides in us through the indwelling Spirit**
 - John 14:16-17-- *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be with you.”*
 - John 14:20-- *“At that day, you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”*
 - b. **Jesus Christ lives His life in and through us**
 - Galatians 2:20-- *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*
3. **Impossibility of producing fruit in our own strength**
 - John 15:4-5-- *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*
4. **The Means by which Jesus reproduce His life in us?**
 - a. **Through His Word**
 - John 15:7-- *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”*
 - 1) **The indwelling Spirit of God ministers to our inward man with the internalized Word of Christ with the result that we respond by faith in loving obedience to the commands of Christ!—The dynamics of the Christian life!**
 - Ephesians 5:18-21-- *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of fear of God.”*
 - Colossians 3:16-- *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.”*
 - 2) **The transformation process**
 - 2 Corinthian 3:18-- *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*
 - 3) **Fruit-bearing results**
 - Psalm 1:1-2-- *“who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.”*
 - Psalm 1:3-- *“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf does not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.”*
 - b. **Through Prayer**
 - John 15:7-- *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”*
 - 1) **Prayer is our way of expressing our dependence on God.**
 - 2) **Three conditions for effective prayer**
 - a) **Must be offered in Jesus’ name**

- John 14:13-14-- *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*
 - 1 John 5:14-15-- *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*
 - James 4:3-- *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”*
- b) **Must be “abiding in Christ” – fellowship**
- Psalm 66:18-- *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”*
- c) **Must be in line with God’s Word**
- Psalm 37:4-- *“Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”*
- 3) **Fruit-bearing results – God is glorified**
- John 15:8-- *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit.”*

B The Discipline of Pruning

- John 15:2-3-- *“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”*
1. **Every branch in Me, not bearing fruit, He ‘takes’ away—lit. “lifts”**
 2. **Every branch in Me that bears fruit, He prunes**
 - a. **Discipline as sons**
 - Hebrews 12:5-6-- *“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?”*
 - Hebrews 12:7-- *“But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”*
 - b. **Produces the “peaceable fruit of righteousness”**
 - Hebrews 12:11-- *“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*
 3. **Every branch He cleanses**
 - John 15:3-- *“already clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.”*
 - John 13:10-11-- *“He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.’ For he knew who would betray him; therefore he said, ‘You are not all clean’.”*
 - 1 John 1:9-- *“If we confess our sins, He (that is, God the Father, the gardener) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*