

## FRUITFULNESS

2019-01-13

**MATTHEW 7:15-20** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them**”

- When it comes to discerning authentic Christianity from the false, **FRUIT IS EVERYTHING!**
- Greater and greater discernment will be needed, as the return of Jesus draws near.
- Our motives have to be from deeply spiritual hearts, not fleshly ones. For example posting our charitable deeds on social media. How does that fit in with:  
**MATTHEW 6:3** But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing

- There is only one way that we’ll ever be able to bear authentic fruit of the Spirit

**JOHN 15:1-17** vs1 “**I am the true vine**”,

- ie. there’ll be false vines, thing that also grow and bear fruit, that look real
- Just because something is growing, is not a sign of authentic fruit fo the Holy Spirit

**MATTHEW 7:13-14** “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it”

vs1 “**and My Father is the vinedresser**”

- God has appointed His five fold ministers but ultimately, He grooms His body.
- I am not not the solution to your problems, I must lead you to the solution and He’s Jesus!

vs2 “**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away**”

- We can be a part of the body of Christ, and be fruitless. For example, when was the last time, you led somebody to the Lord, invited someone to church or your care group, or who are you actively discipling now? Are you actively involved in some other aspect of church life, other than Sunday celebration?

vs2 “**and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit**”

- God wants us taking over the world, like a creeper vine (eg. Of creeper at shooting clubhouse)

vs3 “**You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.**”

- It’s like God is saying: “what the devil is saying about you, is not true”

**JOHN 8:36** Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed

- You’re free to be an effective minister of the Gospel:

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:6** who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life

### **CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Why do you think the bible refers to the aspects of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22) as fruit?
2. Discuss John 15:1-3, referring to the points (bullets) for each verse, in the notes above
3. What helps us discern real fruit from false?