

FRUIT

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: When you think of spiritual "fruit", what comes to mind?

READ: John 15:1-11 "'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Abide** in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides** in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not **abide** in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you **abide** in me, and my words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide** in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will **abide** in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and **abide** in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "

Q: The Greek word we translate "abide" literally means: "to remain in the same place over a period of time - 'to remain, to stay". How does that help you understand what Jesus is saying in this section?

Q: What is the promise of verse 5?

Q: According to verse 8, what does "producing much fruit" do?

READ: John 15:12-17 "'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

Q: What is Jesus' commandment?

Q: According to verse 13, how is that "love" manifested?

Q: What is ASTOUNDING about verse 15? What impact can this have on our life?

Q: According to verse 16, what IS God's will for your life?

READ: Ephesians 2:10 " For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Q: What are the implications of this verse as it applies to your life?

READ: Galatians 5:19-24 "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

So far we've established that A: God wants "fruit" and B: it's our "purpose"

Q: According to verses 19-21, what is the "fruit" of the flesh?

Q: What's the result of producing THIS kind of fruit?

Q: Is producing THIS kind of fruit hard to produce in your life? Why or why not?

Q: According to verses 22-23, what IS the "fruit" Jesus is looking for in our life?

Q: What needs to happen IN us for this kind of fruit to be produced?

Q: According to verse 24, what is NECESSARY for us to "bear fruit"?

Q: Why is this difficult?

Q: Why is this possible?

Q: What are some practical ways, things you can begin, stop, change that will make your life more "fruitful"?