

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23; various texts

All about Fruit

- Fruit is the product of a healthy flowering plant
- Two types of flowering plants don't produce fruit
 - Immature
 - Unhealthy
- The purpose of fruit is to help the plant reproduce
 - To make more healthy, reproducing plants

Fruit Trees

- Jesus uses the imagery of fruit trees frequently
 - When speaking of false teachers (Matt. 7:15-20)
 - Warning of the fruitlessness of Israel (Luke 13:6-9)
 - As did John the Baptist (Luke 3:7-9)
 - Showing the duplicity of the human heart (Matt. 12:33-35)
- He used it as a metaphor for what real life with Him looks like (John 15:1-8)

The Fruit of the Spirit

- Paul uses the same imagery to describe the results of where we get our identity and power from
 - When we are controlled by our flesh/sinful nature/selves, we produce wicked fruits (Gal. 5:19-21)
 - But when we let the Holy Spirit of God control and empower us, He produces something beautiful and life-giving (Gal. 5:22-23)
- This is one fruit
 - Karpas = singular; "the fruit of the Spirit is..."
 - It's like a _____
 - He produces all of this in all of us if we are connected to Jesus, the source of life

The Danger of Fake Fruit

- We often mistakenly think that we produce this fruit
 - And thus, we try with all our might to act the right way
 - When we succeed, it produces self-righteousness & pride
 - When we fail, it produces shame & guilt
- The danger lies when we settle for fake fruit (Isa. 64:6)

- And we demand it of others
 - Even those who are not connected to Jesus!
 - It is demanding self-righteous rather than repentance and a living-giving relationship with Jesus
 - It is the very thing that Jesus railed against the Pharisees for
- Real fruit is produced by the Spirit at work in us
- The purpose of fruit is to help the plant reproduce
 - To make more healthy, reproducing plants

So What?

- Are we connected to Jesus?
- Are we letting His Spirit produce real fruit in us?

Meditation Verse: John 15:5