

Fruit of the Kingdom

We know the kingdom to which people belong by the 'fruit' they produce.¹ So, what fruit are we to look for?

Most believers point to the fruit of the Spirit as the fruit we are to bear. That is:

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|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| • love | • longsuffering | • faithfulness |
| • joy | • kindness | • gentleness |
| • peace | • goodness | • self-control |

What does it mean to bear the fruit in the list? It means that when the Spirit is in a person's life, these are the character traits that will abound. If they don't, it means that Holy Spirit isn't given enough authority in their life. The fruit is a measure of the person's submission to the Kingdom – to the King.

How so? “Christ in you”² is a way of saying that the Spirit of Christ (Holy Spirit) resides in us.³ He connects us with Heaven so that we can have spirit-to-spirit communication all the time. He is the one that makes us a new species⁴ when we are born again of the Spirit⁵. He produces the fruit in us when we surrender to him and allow him to be the way our King rules in and through us.

BUT...it's illogical to think that the 9 fruit in the list are all there is to bear when you're in the Kingdom. If the Spirit is indeed in us, we should produce all the fruit of the Kingdom. These fruit include: mercy, grace, compassion, righteousness, etc., etc. There are many more.

So what are these Kingdom fruit? Basically, it means that they are evident when we are fruitful for the Kingdom (being fruitful means to produce lots of good fruit). This doesn't mean we do lots of good works⁶, *per se*. It means being, doing, saying and becoming all that 'the orchardist' (Father) wants from us. We can only do that when we are fully surrendered to him, align ourselves with him, and are about his business.⁷ The spiritual 'fertilizer' from that co-operation with the Spirit provides the nutrients for the bountiful crop of Kingdom fruit.

Remember:

- Father took the Kingdom from Israel and gave it to others (gentiles) who would bear good Kingdom 'fruit'.⁸
- We are to bear a lot of 'good fruit' for the Kingdom.⁹
- Those who don't bear good 'fruit' will be removed.¹⁰

If he did that to Israel, what makes us think that he won't do the same for every so-called Kingdom citizen who doesn't produce Kingdom fruit. The parable separating the sheep and goats at the end of The Age shows that this is indeed the case.

In the same way that the language a person speaks partially helps to identify your nationality, the fruit in their life partially identifies the Kingdom they are in. Both aren't accurate, and can cause confusion in categorizing people. Same with the kingdoms. Just because a person claims to belong to The Kingdom doesn't mean that their life will display the Kingdom. In the realm of the spirit this is not an option – you

1 – Matthew 7:15-18, 20

2 – Colossians 1:27

3 – Romans 8:10-11

4 – 2 Corinthians 5:17

5 – John 3:5

6 – Ephesians 2:10; 1 Timothy 6:18; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:8; 1 Peter 2:12

7 – Read: “Message: What Impacts Australia”

(canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/MESSAGE-What-Impacts-Australia-13-3-2017.pdf)

8 – Matthew 21:43

9 – John 15:8

10 – Matthew 3:10; 7:19

are either for or against The Kingdom¹¹ – mixture means you're not. This is why King Jesus will cause confusion when he separates the 'sheep' and the 'goat' people. Many will think they are 'sheep' (his people) because of their good works and miraculous achievements, but they won't be. That's because their spirit and heart aren't attached in the right kingdom.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV) – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

IMPORTANT: We manifest the fruit because we are sons (who have the Spirit in us), **NOT** because we're told to do it – that's religion.

If Kingdom fruit doesn't naturally come out of a believer's life then it must be seriously considered which kingdom they are serving! For example: You can't hate other believers if the Spirit is in control.¹²

Every person who doesn't bear good fruit for the Kingdom will not inherit the Kingdom.¹³

So, **bearing good Kingdom fruit is vital – essential, not optional.**

Laurence

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11 – Mark 9:40

12 – 1 John 2:11

[**Read** Frank Viola (12-4-2017) “You can't love Christ and despise His bride” (frankviola.org/2017/04/12/lovechrist)]

13 – Matthew 7:19 (Mark 9:43-47)