

Bearing Kingdom Fruit

There are Christians who assassinate church leaders (like Graham Cooke and Bill Johnson) on social media because they don't line up with their theology. There are also Christians who attack and denigrate other believers who are not committed to the same religious institution that they belong to.

One type of attack by Christians is against those who don't come to "church" regularly, especially those who don't attend any meetings at registered organisations. Having been in this situation as an attacker in the past – but not now – I believe from my own attitudes that the origin is a subconscious one. Somewhere inside was the weird notion that these non-attenders were able to survive without 'going off the rails' which was the expected consequence of not 'going to church'. I had to justify my religious concept of church attendance by offering disparaging comments about them, and to them.

Recently, I heard of an attack against other Jesus-followers which was, "You're not bearing any fruit". This statement can be quite demoralizing, so it's important that we know what it means to "bear good fruit"¹ so we can protect our hearts and minds from such slander.

The Church View-point

If you are in the institutional church system you will have been taught that the fruit God is looking for are:

- Becoming an overseas missionary
- Becoming a professional Christian (minister, pastor, etc.)
- Planting churches
- Saving souls
- Being involved in the church organisation

Usually these are not taught, but are inferred. Christians pick this up from the words of the preacher and their attitude. It is normally displayed in the way church leaders praise those who 'fit the bill' and by how they look down on (ignore) those who don't. It's all psychological programming that originates in religion, not the Kingdom.

The Kingdom View-point

In the Kingdom, the fruit is what the Trinity wants to see, not church leaders or other Christians. Our total alignment with heaven means that we bear the following fruit, at one level or another:

- Growing in sonship
- Maturing in spiritual (not church) matters
- Completing Kingdom assignments with excellence
- Mirroring Heaven's way of doing things
- Rising to greater responsibilities in the Kingdom
- Advancing to greater Kingdom assignments
- Graduating in Kingdom function – son → priest → king → administrator → legislator → oracle
- Becoming more like our Father ('Christ-likeness')
- Doing good works out of our relationship with the King and what he tells us to do
- Obedience to the King
- Growing in intimacy with the members of the Trinity
- Developing oneness with the members of the Trinity

These are entirely different to the church system's fruit. They come out of what Heaven has revealed to us, not what religion teaches.

1 – Matthew 7:18

Jesus' View-point

Jesus was interested in character and his teaching highlighted this as the fruit he was looking at – especially heart transformation.² He told us to bear much fruit³ and that we couldn't do that unless we are permanently connected to him⁴ (grafted into him). A grafted vine leader only produces the fruit that the trunk and rootstock permit. The branches cannot do what they want by producing their own type of fruit. This is what the church does in listing what is 'good' fruit and what's not. If we don't produce Jesus-fruit we are "cut down".⁵ Same thing if we produce the wrong fruit.⁶

Many get the wrong idea about the parable of the sower and so look for the wrong fruit in others. Jesus wasn't talking about salvation, he was teaching about how people hear the Kingdom message and respond to it. E.G. – "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it"⁷ and "he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit"⁸

The Bible's Advice

If you must have biblical proof of 'fruit' rather than what the Spirit reveals to you⁹, then here's a list of what the Bible states about 'fruit':

1. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
2. The fruit of repentance (Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8)
3. The fruit of the Kingdom (Matthew 21:19, 43)
4. The fruit of sin (Romans 7:5)
5. The fruit of the light (Ephesians 5:9)
6. The fruit of darkness (Ephesians 5:11)
7. The fruit of righteousness (Philippians 1:11; James 3:18)
8. The fruit of good deeds (Colossians 1:10)
9. The fruit of the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10)
10. The fruit of discipline (Hebrews 12:11)
11. The fruit of our lips (Hebrews 13:15)
12. The fruit of heavenly wisdom (James 3:17)
13. The gospel of the Kingdom bears fruit (Colossians 1:6)
14. The fruitfulness of the word of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:23)
15. Fruitful of good works (Titus 3:14)
16. Bearing fruit to honour Father (John 15:8)
17. Bearing fruit to show you are a Jesus-follower (John 15:8)
18. Fruit must remain [i.e. eternal] (John 15:16)
19. Paul's fruit [not explicitly saving souls] (Romans 1:13)
20. Judaisers are fruitless (Jude 4, 12)

Fruit automatically comes from what your plugged into, not what you decide to do.

The more the Lord is our focus and our life is centred on communion with him 24/7, the more of Heaven's fruit we'll produce.

2 – Matthew 5:21-30; 12:34 (1 Samuel 2:35; 16:7)

3 – John 15:8

4 – John 15:5

5 – Matthew 3:10, 7:19

6 – Matthew 7:17-19

7 – Matthew 13:19 (NKJV)

8 – Matthew 13:23 (NKJV)

9 – John 14:26

IMPORTANT: If we have come to the understanding that our responsibility is to go on a long journey, through a refining process, to become the New Jerusalem¹⁰ – the living stone¹¹ components of it – our understanding of ‘fruit’ takes on Heaven's perspective, not a religious one.

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5-8-2018 (updated 27-8-2018)

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10 – This was the message for the worldwide church that Rick Joyner was given (Read “The Path”)

www.amazon.com.au/Path-Fire-Mountain-Book-ebook/dp/B00GHTL2R8

Also his earlier trilogy (www.amazon.com.au/Final-Quest-Trilogy-Rick-Joyner-ebook/dp/B06XFW7FGQ)

11 – Ephesians 2:19-21; 1 Peter 2:5