

II. Apart from Christ, there is no fruit

A. The branch cannot bear fruit of itself

- It is only because of our relationship to Jesus Christ that any fruit comes at all.
- God does not expect fruit outside of Christ.

John 15: 1-5 – Abiding in Christ

- But in Jesus, all things are possible.

Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

B. Without abiding, the branch dries up

John 15: 6

- Not abiding brings spiritual dryness.
- A withered branch produces no fruit.

**Illus – A Christian life without fruit is not a happy one.
Joy is one of the results of our relationship to God.**

- To sit on the fence is to be the most miserable of all.

C. Without abiding, there are sour grapes

- The sour fruit of unforgiveness
- Forgiveness comes from God, and so abiding in Christ brings God’s heart toward others.

III. Fruit is the result of the Holy Spirit

A. He is the sap within us

➤ **The well within us.**

John 4:14, “but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; and the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

- We are constantly connected to the vine (you don’t have to go anywhere to attach to the vine.)
- But we must choose to operate our lives by the Holy Spirit within us
- **There is a war between the flesh and the spirit**

Galatians 5:16-17; 6:7-8

B. He uses the Word; abiding within us

John 15: 7

- Which brings the fruit of holiness

Ps 119:11, “Your word I have treasured in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

C. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of God

Galatians 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- These are the qualities of holiness

Conclusion

The greatest fruit that God desires is simply the depth of our relationship to Him. We were made for this.