

Fruit Inspection

Lesson for Sunday, February 15, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ We have been studying God's Word to learn what it means to be a disciple.
- ⇒ See if your class can recall the four calls of Jesus...
 - Come and see – Follow Me – Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men – Go and bear fruit.
- ⇒ Last week we were in John 15. Read John 15:8. It is God's will that His disciples bear fruit.
- ⇒ Have you ever thought about what it takes for a piece of fruit to get from a farm to your local grocer? Fruit inspection is a major business!
- ⇒ In the USA, here are the steps fruit must go through:
 - Lot identification; sampling; visual and physical exam; attribute measurement; grading and certification; if necessary, appeals process.
- ⇒ Is there a spiritual parallel? Consider:
 - John 15:2 implies that God inspects the fruit of the Christian!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:13 reminds us that every man's work (fruit) will be tested!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10 teaches us that our works (fruit) will be judged!
- ⇒ One day, the fruit of our lives will be inspected by God Himself. But what is our fruit supposed to look like? The Bible describes three types of spiritual fruit.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Fruit of Christian **Character** (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - a. In the book of Galatians, Paul urges Christians to live by the Spirit rather than gratifying sinful desires, promising that Spirit-led lives produce the fruit of the Spirit – a unified cluster of Christlike character traits. Read the text.
 - b. This fruit is listed as nine qualities that emerge naturally in the lives of believers who walk by the Holy Spirit, contrasting sharply with the works of the flesh described earlier in the chapter (vs. 19-21).
 - c. Here is a brief explanation of each of these character qualities (do not spend too much time here):
 - i. Love: Selfless, unconditional commitment to others' well-being.
 - ii. Joy: Deep, abiding gladness rooted in God's presence, not circumstances.
 - iii. Peace: Inner tranquility and harmony with God and others.
 - iv. Longsuffering (patience): Enduring wrongs without retaliation.
 - v. Kindness: Tender compassion in action toward others.
 - vi. Goodness: Moral integrity and generosity in deeds.
 - vii. Faith: Reliability and loyalty mirroring God's trustworthiness.
 - viii. Meekness (gentleness): Humble strength, not weakness, in relating to people.
 - ix. Temperance (self-control): Mastery over impulses through the Spirit's power.
 - d. Notice that these are fruits *of the Spirit*. This means that these fruits are produced in the life of disciples as they walk in the Spirit. What does this look like in our daily lives?
 - i. Daily yielding to the Spirit through prayer, Scripture, and obedience, allowing God to transform desires from fleshly to fruitful.
 - ii. This is what we saw last week in John 15 when Jesus kept repeating “abide in me.”
2. The Fruit of Christian **Conduct** (Philippians 1:11)
 - a. Paul wrote this prayer (beginning in vs. 9) for the Philippian church. Scan through vs. 9-10 to identify the items of prayer he specifically mentions.

- i. That their love would abound and display itself in real knowledge and insight to spiritual things...
 - ii. That they would learn to recognize and treasure what is excellent...
 - iii. That they would be pure and blameless until Christ returns...
 - b. Then in verse 11 Paul mentions that he prays for them to be filled with the “fruits of righteousness.”
 - c. When we take these verses together, we begin to see a list of behaviors that ought to characterize the life of the disciple of Jesus Christ:
 - i. Vs. 9: A growing **love** for spiritual things.
 - ii. Vs. 10: A growing **maturity** to discern between godliness and worldliness.
 - iii. Vs. 10: A growing **likeness** to Jesus Christ in our personal holiness.
 - d. Discuss: As we grow in our relationship with Christ, we ought to look more and more like Christ.
 - i. Read 1 John 2:6.
 - ii. John is clear. If we say we are His disciples, we ought to walk as Jesus walked. We ought to live like Jesus lived.
- 3. The Fruit of Christian **Converts** (Romans 1:13)
 - a. Another letter from Paul and another prayer of Paul.
 - i. Vs. 8 – He thanks God for the saints of Rome and their testimony.
 - ii. Vs. 9 – He tells them that he prays for them often.
 - iii. Vs. 10 – Paul longs to go and see them at some point.
 - b. In verse 13, Paul tells his audience that he wishes might have “some fruit among you.” Paul is referring to the spiritual fruit of more Christians.
 - c. The **focus** of Jesus must be the focus of the disciple. What was His focus? He was primarily focused on reaching people with the Gospel. (Refer to Luke 19:10.)
 - d. A disciple is to **follow** the commands of Christ. His last earthly command was the Great Commission. We are to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. (Refer to Mark 16:15.)
 - e. As we follow the example of Jesus, we begin to look like Him. We walk like Him, we talk like Him, we develop the heart of Jesus. His heart becomes our heart.
 - i. John 3:16 reminds us of God’s heart – it is that the world would come to know Him!
 - ii. The disciple must be concerned with producing the spiritual fruit of other Christians!
 - f. Will your fruit pass inspection?

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Discuss: What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? This is a key to producing fruit. It is not so much a result of our efforts as it is a work that the Holy Spirit does in us as we yield ourselves to Him moment by moment. Here are some points you may want to discuss:
- ⇒ Walking in the Spirit, as described in Galatians 5:16, means allowing the Holy Spirit to guide daily thoughts, actions, and decisions rather than following selfish fleshly desires.
- ⇒ Here are some practical steps we ought to incorporate into our lives.
 - Start each day with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to fill and direct you, recognizing His control over impulses.
 - Immerse in Scripture through daily quiet time to align thoughts with God's truth and recognize the Spirit's promptings.
 - Confess sins quickly and seek accountability from mature believers to stay in step with the Spirit.
 - Practice fruit of the Spirit traits, like patience in traffic or kindness in conflict, choosing Spirit-led responses.