

# Fruit and Friendship

Fatherheart TV



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John 15:16-17 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: love each other."

The fruit we bear always comes out of relationship: with Father and with one another.



Something seems to destroy this  
and that is fear.



Fear destroys friendship/relationship and prevents us from being fruitful - Gen 3:10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Fear takes away our identity and leads to conformity, we don't want to be different and so we create an act or performance.

Fear takes away our destiny - Saul did not do what God had said (go and destroy all the Amalekites) and so he was rejected as king. Why? He was afraid of the people 1 Sam 15:22-26



Fear destroys our capacity and ability to believe in and accept the goodness of God. Jonah did not go to Ninevah because he feared for his reputation.

Fear keeps us from his presence. John 20 Mary takes Peter and John to the empty tomb but they go home. She stays and encounters Jesus.

Psalm 27:1&4 – “The Lord is my light and salvation, whom shall I fear? .... One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.”



Opposite of fear is love. 1 John 4:18 - "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."

If fear controls us then that determines the fruit we produce.

As we live in love so our lives are transformed so we become like Jesus, start to become truly fruitful.



"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance"

(Matthew 3:8) John the Baptist to the Pharisees.

The fruit the Pharisees were producing was not the kind of fruit that comes from repentance and a changed life.

It was the fruit that came from a controlling, resentful AND bitter heart.



When fear controls us something in us seeks to train/control the fruit we bear.

We want it to be acceptable, to fit with other's expectations. It ceases to be from the heart but is an external front we put on. We hide.

There are a few defaults we revert to:-



“Self-help Christianity”

“Righteous Christianity”

“Doctrine Christianity”

“Justice Christianity”

All both right and wrong – they are all good, but they all miss the point in some way or another.



The point they miss is that of friendship  
with Father, through Jesus.



Jesus shows us the source of all fruit - John 15:5-11 (NIV)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.



We should not confuse knowing about someone with actually knowing them.

It is only as we discover someone's personality that we really know them.

Knowing about God is NOT the same as knowing him! knowing and experiencing his personality and character.



We can be set free from fear, we can do the right thing and outwardly we seem to bear fruit.

Living in love is not just about the external things of our life being changed.

It's about our heart, our motives, our attitudes, what is really going on inside of us.



Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of your life, providing you with a secure foundation that grows and grows. Then, as your spiritual strength increases, you will be empowered to discover the great magnitude of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions.” (Ephesians 3:17-18 TPT)



To bear good fruit, that will last we need to make our lives the resting place of his love. The more we do the more we see how vast his love is for us, the more we see the vastness of his love the more we make our life his resting place - and so on!

Bear good fruit – the best of which is the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit of Sonship which enables us to recognise and seek our Father.



"But the fruit of the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its various expressions. This love is revealed through: Joy that overflows, Peace that subdues, Patience that endures, Kindness on display, A life full of virtue, Faith that prevails, Gentleness of heart and Strength of spirit. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless." (Galatians 5:22-23 TPT)



To live in perfect and complete love, perfect and complete joy etc.

We have all tried to produce the fruit of the Spirit, we've thought we've done the right things and then we look at our lives! We can't do it on our own - need help.

Thankfully, we have help. As we live in love, as the love of the Father is poured into our hearts through HS we are caused/motivated/compelled to live a fruitful life.



Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.



Both Moses and Abraham were friends of God. So are we.....

Living in love changes us from a hidden life, from self made fruit – to one where we are friends of God with his love resting in us and giving us strength.