



The Abundant Life Series

- Lesson 8: Christian Character -

What are the distinguishing _____ of a Christian?

If you are saved, then does your _____ manner even matter?

- **Matthew 7:16-20**, *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? **17**, Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. **18**, A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. **19**, Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **20**, Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

A tree that is corrupt or sickly on the inside, will bring forth sickly fruit, but a healthy tree produces good fruit. In context, Jesus is not talking about the difference between saints and sinners, but how you can tell which "believers" are really allowing God to do a work in their life. He said "*by their _____ ye shall know them.*"

The _____ of the Flesh

Paul used the good fruit/bad fruit analogy in the book of Galatians to reveals specific things that we should avoid and that we should produce. The _____ "fruit" are called the "works of the flesh."

- **Galatians 5:19-21**, *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **20**, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, **21**, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*



1. _____ - unfaithfulness to marriage.
2. _____ - any sexual activity not between a man and his wife.
3. Uncleanliness - impure _____.
4. Lasciviousness - open and shameless _____.
5. Idolatry - worshiping or serving anything other than the true _____.
6. _____ - sorceries, dabbling in the occult, and incantations.
7. _____ - placing yourself at odds with other people to purposely cause a division.
8. Variance - constant _____ arguing and debating.
9. _____ - misplaced zeal; being passionate for the wrong things.
10. _____ - constant anger; giving in to your temper.
11. _____ - self-promoting; putting others down in an attempt to elevate self.
12. Seditious - _____; disunity with the church.
13. Heresies - sticking by your _____ even when it is errant or hurtful to others.
14. Envyings - _____ mixed with spite.
15. _____ - to kill; either physically or with our tongue.
16. _____ - intoxication; partaking of any substance which causes it.

For another list of such "bad fruit" see Romans 1:28-32.

The _____ of the Spirit

- **Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

1. _____ - an unselfish, sacrificial love. There are three basic words for "love" in the Greek: agape, phileo (brotherly love; tender affection), and eros (sexual love). The scriptures always use "agape" to denote the love shown to us by God becoming flesh and dying for us and that same word is used here.
2. _____ - cheerfulness; calm delight. An outward "fruit" of a true Christian should be a constant calm and happiness even throughout bad days. Because we know that this life is but temporary and that we are living our lives to be ready for eternity, then we can calmly face any calamity!
3. _____ - security and harmony between individuals. Our relationships with others should be more "peaceful" as we begin to obey more of God's Word.
4. _____ - patience; not easily discouraged. We must not only learn to be more patient with others, but also to learn to wait for God's perfect timing.
5. _____ - usefulness in character. In other words, we must have a willing attitude to work and help and further the kingdom of God.



6. _____ - manifesting an overall pure and good spirit. When people have been around us, they should not leave feeling "dirty" or "bothered" because of what they have seen or heard. They should be able to detect a quiet sincerity and the innocence of the Holy Ghost within our lives.
7. _____ - conviction of the truth. We should hold on to the principles and doctrines of the Word of God and refuse to waver from them. This also refers to being faithful by being reliable, keeping promises, thorough, on time, etc...
8. _____ - humility; gentleness of spirit and mildness of response. In other words, we should not allow ourselves to be easily provoked or to instantly react to adverse situations. This is the opposite of a "flare of anger" and revenge.
9. _____ - self-control; not allowing sinful desires to master you. In other words, we must control our attitudes and appetites and reign them into submission to the Word of God no matter what our "flesh" feels like.

Things to Remember About Our _____

- **Luke 13:6-9**, *He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7, Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8, And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9, And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.*

In this parable, the owner of the vineyard represents _____,
the "dresser of the vineyard" represents your _____,
and the vine represents _____.

After a period of time, God expects for us to bear _____ fruit.
If we do not bear "good fruit" after being "planted" in the vineyard of
God, then the inside must be _____ and will be removed
from the vineyard. Your outward works do not save you at first, but
over a period of time they do reveal the _____ condition
of your heart.

- **Matthew 7:19**, *Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

When you begin to bear "good fruit," God will " _____ " us
so that we can bear even more fruit.

John 15:2, *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

If a fruit tree is pruned, and excess branches are removed, then the
harvest next year will be more bountiful! Also, the _____ the
winter, the _____ the fruit in the springtime. Perhaps
you feel as if God is putting you through some _____ and is
working in your life again trying to remove any hindrances and the
" _____ " in your life. Do not get discouraged, because God is
simply preparing you for an even greater harvest of good things!

We can only bear good fruit by " _____ " in God

- **John 15:4-5**, *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5, I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

The word " _____ " here means "to stay; to endure; to not depart." No matter how cold a trial that we may go through, or how tough life may seem to become, we MUST "abide" with Jesus and trust Him. By doing so we cannot help but be _____.

Spiritual _____

Peter wrote about certain things that we can add to the " _____ " of our heart that are guaranteed to produce good fruit.

- **2 Peter 1:5-8**, *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6, And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7, And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8, For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

You "shall neither be _____ nor _____ " if you add these seven things to your faith:

1. _____ - courage.
2. _____ - understanding of the Word and Ways of God.
3. Temperance - _____.

4. Patience - _____ endurance.
5. _____ - reverence toward the things of God.
6. _____ Kindness - love for "brothers and sisters" in the Lord.
7. _____ - agape; sacrificial, unselfish love.

Fruit _____ Guidelines

Many evil deeds are black and white. It is not hard to _____ and identify robbery, drunkenness, lying, or murder as outward actions that should not be found in a Christian. But what about when you have to make a _____ to act in a situation where right or wrong is not clearly spelled out within the Word of God? Some things may appear _____ on the surface and yet bring spiritual _____.

Some things may _____ questionable and yet really are wholesome.

Although situations may vary, God has given us some definite _____ to judge whether or not something is wholesome enough to be partaken of by a Christian.

Think of these as "fruit inspection guidelines." When you are confronted with a choice or thing that you are not sure whether it is good or _____, ask yourself these _____ about it:

1. Is it something that causes me to "be brought _____ the power" of something other than God or His Word?

1 Corinthians 6:12, *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

The Message, *Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims.*

2. Is it _____ to God?

1 Corinthians 10:31, *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

3. Is it profitable and up-building to me?

1 Corinthians 10:23, *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.* Just because you have the opportunity to do something does not mean that it is the right choice.

4. Is it a _____ block?

1 Corinthians 8:9, *But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*

5. Is it a _____ ?

Hebrews 12:1b, *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

6. Is it what _____ would do?

1 John 2:6, *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*