

FRUIT, FRIENDS AND FOES (John 15)

Christ has called the believer to bear **much** and **more fruit**: fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), fruit of souls being saved (Romans 1:13) and fruit

of holy, righteous living (Romans 6:22). Every fruit bearing Christian has a intimate **friend** in Christ (John 15:15). He reveals personal information about Himself and has a sensitive ear to our needs. As we do grow closer to Christ, however, this old world will grow in their hatred for us (John 15: 18-25). Be ready to stand with Him against the **foe** no matter what the cost!

I. THE COMMITTED **FRIENDS OF CHRIST** (John 15:9-17)

A. We are to abide in His **love** (John 15:10-15)

*"...ye shall **abide** in my love;" [meno – **abide, continue** (15:9), **remain** (15:11)]*

1. Through His **Word** (special communion; face to face) (John 15:10)

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Joh 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Joh 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2. Through His **friendship** (a special relationship) (John 15:13-15)

a. True intimate fellowship = love, joy, peace (David and Jonathan)

b. The ultimate sacrifice of willingness to surrender one's life for another

B. We are to abide in His **joy** (John 15:11)

*"...that my joy might **remain** (abide) in you,"*

1. Through what He has **said to us** (John 15:11 – His promises)

2. Abiding in Christ ultimately brings **fullness** of joy (John 15:11)

Psa 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

C. We are to have abiding **fruit** (John 15:16)

*"...that your fruit should **remain** (abide):"*

1. You have to be in Christ (be saved) to bear **spiritual fruit** (John 15:5)

2. Abiding fruit merits **answers to prayer** (John 15:16)

II. THE CALLOUSED **ENEMIES OF CHRIST** (John 15:18-25)

A. If you were of the world the world would **love you** (John 15:19)

1. Those that are of the world are **unsaved** or **carnal Christians**

a. **The unsaved** are by nature enemies of the cross

Eph 2:3 *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

b. **The saved** can backslide and wander away from the Lord

2Ti 4:10 *For Demas hath forsaken me, **having loved this present world**, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

2. If you are a friend of the World you are an **enemy** of Christ (Js. 4:4)

Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

3. If you love the world the **love** of the father is not in you (I Jn. 2:15-17)

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1Jn 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

B. If you are a **dedicated** Christian the world will **hate you** (John 15:18-25)

1. The servant is not greater than the **master**, (they hated Christ, 15:20)

2. If the unsaved world **persecuted** me, it will **persecute** you (15:20)

3. If they **obey** my instruction, they will **obey** your instruction (15:20)

4. If they hate me for **revealing** their sin, they will hate you for **revealing** their sin (John 15:22-24; John 3:19, 20)

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

5. The world hated me **without cause** and it will hate you **without cause** (John 15:25) (**Worldly= unsaved or carnal believer**)