



F. 15:8 The Father is glorified by the fruit produced by our abiding relationship Jesus.

G. What is the point of fruit in the Christian life? Refreshment + Reproduction

*Galatians 5:22-24 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love [agape], joy, peace, longsuffering [makrothumía], kindness, goodness, faithfulness [or "faith"], <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

*2 Peter 1:5-8 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup>But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup>to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness [philadelphia], and to brotherly kindness [agape] love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Matthew 13:23 (NKJV) But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

H. Also notice the progression: "fruit" to "more fruit" (v. 2) to "much fruit" (v. 5) and again, "much fruit" (v.8). In v.16 we will see *abiding fruit*.

II. 15:9-17 The Love of Jesus

A. 15:9-10 More abiding, but now in the love of Christ. Love = obedience as in 14:21

B. 15:12 Jesus is repeating what He told them a couple of chapters back:

*John 13:34-35 (NKJV) <sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

C. 15:13 Words on Dawson Trotman's gravestone in Colorado Springs (founder of the Navigators ministry). He drowned in a boating accident saving someone else's life.

D. 15:16 There is comfort in the fact that He chose us.

**An abiding life leads to abiding fruit.**

E. 15:17 We'll need love from one another because the world will learn to hate us.

III. 15:18-25 The Hatred of the World

A. 15:18-20 It didn't take long for the world to begin hating Jesus.

- i. Herod tried to kill Him from the time he heard that He was born. (Matt 2:13-16)
- ii. He died when people He loved demanded His crucifixion.

*Psalms 119:98 (NKJV) You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies...*

B. One thing is needed before God can fulfill the above verse in our lives: Enemies.

- C. If we're going to be Christ's friends, we're going to have Christ's enemies.
- D. Christians can become worldly, so we need to be very careful. It can happen gradually as it did to Lot in Sodom.
  - i. First there is friendship with the world (James 4:4);
  - ii. Secondly, love for the world (1 John 2:15-17);
  - iii. Finally conformity to the world (Rom. 12:2).

We need to guard ourselves from anything in our lives that keeps us from enjoying God's love and doing God's will.

*1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

- E. 15:21 Don't take it personally. It all goes back to Jesus, and then to the Father.
- F. 15:22-24 **Revelation brings responsibility.**

#### IV. 15:26-27 The Coming of the Helper

- A. Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit in the last chapter. See 14:16-17.
  - i. When the world hates us, the Holy Spirit sustains us. He brings that abiding presence of Jesus into our lives.

#### Three Relationships Defined:

1. The Believer's Relationship to Christ 15:1-11
2. The Believer's Relationship to Other Christians 15:12-17
3. The Believer's Relationship to the World 15:18-27
  - Our relationship to Jesus comes first. If we are abiding in Christ, we will love one another and experience victory over the hatred of the world.

#### Characteristics of the Abiding Life:

1. much abiding fruit in our lives (v.5, 16)
2. answered prayer (v. 7)
3. an abiding sense of the Savior's love (v. 9)
4. obedience to His Word (v. 10)
5. abiding joy (v.11)
6. fullness of joy (v. 11)
7. love for other believers (v.12)
8. hatred from the world (v.19)
9. the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit (v.26)
10. We also bear witness to Jesus (v.27)