

Introduction:

“God, something about the way I’m living my life isn’t working.”

- The only way you can produce fruit that _____ is if He is producing supernatural fruit _____ you.
- Getting _____ for God is not the goal.
- My relationship with Christ has to be the _____, if I’m going to bear much fruit.

What is fruit?

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control;

Galatians 5:22-23a (NASB)

- Fruit _____ God.
- Fruit is the thing that the tree was _____ to produce.
- Reminder: _____ for your life is fruit... so people see Christ in you.
- The disciples had _____, _____, and _____.
- God wants to produce in you what you _____ in yourself.
- The way it happens is _____.

The Process:

No Fruit → Fruit → More Fruit → Much Fruit

The Goal:

- Glorify God. It all begins with your _____ with Him.

¹ I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:1-2 (NASB)

Discipline:

- God will lovingly bring _____ into your life so you can begin to bear fruit.
- When there is no fruit, some are sick and some are even dying prematurely.

See 1 Corinthians 11

³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

John 15:3-5 (NASB)

- Pruning is God moving into your life and cutting away superficial priorities and anything you're _____ in other than Him, that is decreasing the level of relationship and abiding in your heart and life.
- Discipline has to do with God dealing with the _____ in your life.
- Pruning has to do with God dealing with the _____ in your life.
- When God wants to produce more fruit, He will prune those He _____.

An “If – then” proposition:

If...

...your kids don't abide with you, and they don't catch your _____...

...you don't have _____ to talk with your heavenly Father, building a relationship with Him...

...you don't have _____ to methodically, unhurriedly read through the scriptures, and let Him speak to you...

...you're married and you don't have _____ to talk about issues of the heart...

...then...

A lot of what you're doing is **not** the will of God, because the primary goal is to produce fruit.... but **apart** from Him, we can do nothing.

Does God's Word abide in you?

- It can't abide in you if you don't _____ it, unless you _____ it, _____ it, _____ it, and _____ it.
- When I'm most tired, I shift from abiding to, "I'm going to make it happen – Oh God, I want **You** to help **me**...."
- God says: "I want **you** to abide in **Me**, and **then** I will show you...."

Why don't we hear God's voice when we get over committed?

- We're not _____. When you're abiding, He will say, "This is the way..."
- God will prune about deep issues of the heart:
- Identity issues, priorities, significance, security.

What does it mean to abide?

- You must _____. Ask: Am I in a season of discipline?
 - The “Main Thing” is not what we do _____ Him.
 - The “Main Thing” is your _____ and your relationship with Jesus.
- How many of us honestly feel like Jesus is our friend?
God asks: “Could you refocus? I want a relationship with you.”
 - Secretly, we believe God is _____ at us.
 - The wrath of God was placed on _____ at the cross.
- A lot of our Christian energy is not about _____ God, it's about helping us feel better about _____.
 - So Jesus said, “Guys, here's what I want... abide.”
 - *Be still and know that I am God.* Psalm 46:10 (NASB)

Discussion Questions

1. How do I do this? First things first. (For me, “No Bible – no breakfast.”)
2. Ask God: What do I need to abide?
3. Do I really believe that abiding in Christ is the most important thing I will ever do in any given 24 hours?
4. How do I live out that relationship every moment of the day?

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

John 15:7-11 (NASB)