

LESSON #2

“MATURITY THAT BARES GOOD FRUIT”

↪ Key Verses & Chapters:

- John 14
- John 15
- Galatians 5:22-23

1. REVIEWING THE PRINCIPLES

- A. John 15:1-10 > If we are connected to Christ, what will happen? If we are not connected to Christ, this same thing will not happen. What is this one thing?
- B. What unpleasant words does Jesus speak concerning those who consistently fail to bear good fruit?

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF MATURITY AND BARING GOOD FRUIT

- A. Jesus was clear. Living a fruitful life is NOT OPTIONAL. But how do you know if you are bearing the right kinds of fruit in your life?
- B. Being busy with a lot of Christian activities is not necessarily an indicator of fruitfulness! **Remember the Pharisees?**
- C. John 14:7-9 > **THE ULTIMATE TEST OF FRUITFULNESS.** When people see you, do they see Jesus? As they come to know you better, do they know Jesus better?

3. A DISCIPLE ABIDES IN CHRIST (John 15:1-17)

True followers desire to live productive lives. In John 15:1-17, Christ lays out predominant characteristics of a *growing* (**MATURING**) disciple:

- 1. **A disciple stays close to the Master.** (verses 4-5)
 - Abide = Permanence of position. Sink your roots in deep.
- 2. **A Disciple is Fruitful.** (verses 6, 16)

- A branch (us) can only bare fruit when it remains in the vine (Jesus)
 - Galatians 5:22-23 > THE FRUIT **YOU SHOULD BE** BARING
3. **A Disciple obeys the Master.** (verse 10)
 - We must obey the guidelines and principles of the Scriptures
 4. **A Disciple loves others.** (verse 12-13, 17)
 - Jesus died for us because he loved us. He asks us to do the same, love others.
 5. **A Disciple is overflowed with Joy.** (verse 11)
 - The reasons for these principles are revealed here!
 - He wants us to be filled with joy. If you try to find happiness by yourself, it will elude you. If you prioritize your life as Jesus has laid out in these verses, then “YOUR JOY WILL OVERFLOW”

CONCLUSION

If we are to *grow* (MATURE) through Discipleship, it is very essential that we always remain, abide, and stay connected to Christ. This will allow us to produce GOOD FRUIT in our lives.