

Wholehearted 3 - Just Be the Branch

Message from 5/25/25



Message Summary

Big Idea: Our spiritual purpose is to be connected to Jesus, so that we will bear fruit.

It's not uncommon to find ourselves doing God's work without bearing the fruit of the Spirit. This is because we are focused on production, instead of connection with God. The key is to just be the branch and stay connected.

Fruit of the Spirit

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control

Fruit of the Flesh

- Selfish
- Frustrated
- Anxious/Fearful
- Impatient
- Uncaring
- Bad
- Disloyal
- Harsh
- Indulgent

Key Scripture

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:4-5, 8 NIV

Additional Scriptures

- Galatians 5:22-25 NIV

Start Talking

- Have you ever grown a fruit tree that didn't bear fruit or had an appliance that didn't work? What were your feelings toward it?

Start Thinking

- Which part of the message was most impactful for you and why?
- Which word or phrase from the Key Scriptures speak to you?
- Which of the metaphors (dentist-Christians, a baby in a womb, or a marching band) helped to challenge/grow your understanding of your relationship with God?
- What do you think about the statement, "We're not meant to focus on production, but connection"? Which do you tend to focus on more?

Start Sharing

- How pleased do you think God is with the quality and quantity of your fruit?
- How could you focus on your connection with God this month and grow more in the fruit of the Spirit in the process?
- In the message, we heard about some pathways for connecting with God. Which are some of your favorite ways to connect with God? Is there a pathway with which you'd like to grow more consistent?

Start Praying

Gracious God, thank you for showing us that our spiritual purpose is to stay connected with Jesus and to bear fruit. We believe that when we fulfill our spiritual purpose, we will find the greatest joy. And so we're sorry for the times when we disconnected from you and displayed the fruit of the flesh, dishonoring you and hurting the people around us. Please show us how to stay connected with you by drawing near to you daily so we can grow in the fruit of the Spirit and bring glory to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing

- Spend time reflecting on any growth or changes you've seen in your relationship with God since the beginning of the year. Make a plan for how you'll continue growing in the months to come.
- Start the Bible Plan *What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/jesus