

A Fruitful Branch 2

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John 15:9-11 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Love is needed in any relationship. To be in relationship with Christ we must love Him.

Obedience is a requirement to prove one's love. Christ is hated today because He must be obeyed in order to truly love God the Father.

Joy is the result of our obedience to Christ. When we do not obey Him, we do not feel joy, thus we search for other ways to feel pleasure. When we attempt to circumvent obedience to God, we will accept erroneous doctrines, 'self as god' philosophies, and faithless, works-based ideologies.

John 15:12-14 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Jesus' commandment is clear. We must love one another as He loved us. He proved His love by laying down His life for us. We must do the same for others.

Jesus considers us friends, when we do whatever He commands. His commands come from God and what the Father desires for us to do.

We should be willing to lay down our lives (will) for others as well for the cause of Christ. We should give up what we want to do for what we should do, to show our love for one another.

John 15:15-17 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

A slave is never given a reason for the work assigned to him; he must perform it because he has no other choice. The friend is a confidant who shares the knowledge of his superior's purpose and voluntarily adopts it as his own.

Jesus has chosen us to be partakers in his sufferings. This means that we are privileged to walk with Him and bear fruit in His name.

Christ desires us to bear fruit and for us to have all that we need so that our fruit can remain. This is why obedience to Him is essential. When we are obedient, we have freedom to ask for what we desire.

Summary

Love is the key to bearing fruit. When we love God, we do what He says. When we do what He says, we have joy. Joy allows us to ask for what we desire without reservation. This signifies true friendship status with Christ. Being able to walk with Jesus and feel good about asking for what we need makes our lives joyous and keeps us in a position to bear fruit. But, when we are out of God's will, we are reluctant to ask for things because we know we are not in good standing with Him, so our desires are not in line with His.

In order to truly bear fruit for God, we must be obedient to Him and walk in His plan for us. Obedience and right standing with God brings us joy and keeps us bearing fruit that remains. A good branch bears good fruit and good fruit is pleasing to the vinedresser.

1John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1John 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

1John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

1John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

1John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.