



## THE FRUITFUL CHURCH.

“AND LET OUR PEOPLE LEARN TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO GOOD WORKS, SO AS TO HELP CASES OF URGENT NEED, AND NOT BE UNFRUITFUL.”

**TITUS 3:14**

### GOD’S DESIRE FOR THE CHURCH:

- That God’s people and church would be distinct from the world around it.
- Because God’s people would be...
  - Faithful Worshippers of Jesus Christ.
  - Faithful Witnesses of Jesus Christ.

### BIG IDEA:

The fruitful life is devoted to God’s Word and to good works.

### THE FRUITFUL CHURCH AND HER FRUITFUL PEOPLE...

- Are devoted to the truth of God’s Word. (v. 9-10)
  - **v. 9 paraphrase:** Run away from/Deliberately shun moronic distortions of the truth, mystical legends, rivalries, and pointless arguments about the law.

Teaching stemming from these seeds is unprofitable and worthless. According to Paul, listening to this type of teaching is pointless and futile. It will not help you love God more-not the true God. It will not help you grow your intimacy with God. It will not stir your passion for missions-taking the true gospel to people. This type of teaching will produce some response, but it will not be faithfulness to God. It will produce wrong responses, because the foundation is worthless.

And yet, the most damning thing that can be said about this type of teaching is that it is **fruitless**.

→ **An opposite rendering:** Devote yourself to the truth of God’s Word and its faithful teaching.

Our prayer is that through IGNITE, you would...

- Grow to love the whole Scripture.
- Love the true Jesus Christ.

This is why our preaching is **Bible-saturated, God-exalting, Christ-centered, and doctrinally-rooted**, instead of being story-based.

- We want our preaching to make more of Jesus Christ and what God calls his disciples to than us, so we always endeavor to...
- Preach Christ and his Word directly and straightforwardly.

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5** – “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

This type of faithful devotion to God and his word through study and teaching is **fruitful**.

**Q:** What type of fruit?

**A:** Salvation and Maturity (Colossians 1:6)

**Psalms 1:1-3** – “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

**John 15:4-5** – “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

- Are devoted to good work. (v. 14)
- 1. Fruit is the proof of salvation.
- 2. Fruit is a fragrance of grace to an undeserving world.
- 3. **Fruit is the natural produce of the Christian life.**

**John 15:5** – “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.”

**Romans 8:29** – “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

**2 Corinthians 3:18** – Christians “are being transformed into the same [Christ’s] image from one degree of glory to another.”

**Galatians 5:22-23** – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

**Q:** What is fruit in the Christian life?

**A:** Fruit in the Christian life is evidence that a believer is growing to look more like Christ everyday.  
→ This means: to see fruit is to see Christ by observing your life.

“Noble deeds are the fruit of the tree of salvation.”<sup>1</sup> – **D. Edmond Hiebert**

→ **v. 14** – “And let our people devote themselves to good works, **so as to help in cases of urgent need**

→ **v. 14 paraphrase:** Just as God dealt mercifully toward you through Jesus Christ, you should insist on showing Christ to those in need by dealing mercifully with them.

This type of life is **fruit**, and it is the type of behavior that ought to be displayed by Christians (Kingdom citizens) who live lives submitted to King Jesus. In his kingdom, as told by the Beatitudes, King Jesus declared, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

## CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Faithfulness on that campus means that God’s people recognize that we belong to an entirely different kingdom, under the rule and reign of an entirely King, whose love is so much greater than this world, and whose laws and provisions are so much more sweet.

Faithfulness on that campus means that God’s people devote themselves to sharing the good news of a good King by our words and actions. That we share this message out of an overflow of joy, peace, and satisfaction that our King has provided us.

Faithfulness is distinct from the world because God’s people love Him and devote their lives to serving Him.

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<sup>1</sup> D. Edmond Hiebert, “Titus,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Ephesians through Philemon*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 449.