

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Who is the Holy Spirit and what difference does He make? What are the gifts of the Spirit and how do they work? What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit and how do I know if I am? Let's we take a deeper look at the most misunderstood person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit, and how He changes you from the inside out.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

**Being Filled with the Holy Spirit doesn't make me better than you,
He makes me better than me.**

Your **FRUITFULNESS** is a Massive Theme in the Bible.

God's Plan to Produce Fruit in Your Life is Massively **MISUNDERSTOOD**.

(Fruitfulness Passages: Ps. 1:1-3; Jn. 15:16; Eph. 5:8-9; Col. 1:10; Phil. 1:11; Jam. 3:17; Gal. 5:22-24)

John 15:1-8 (NIV)

FOUR JOBS:

Job #1 The **TRUE VINE** – Job #2 The **GARDENER** – Job #3 The **PRODUCER** – Job #4 The **BRANCH**

TWO TRUTHS ABOUT PRODUCING FRUIT:

1. There is no producing without some **PRUNING**.
 - Mindless **SCROLLING**
 - Mean and Critical **COMMENTS**
 - Manic **SCHEDULES**
2. **ATTACHMENT** is far more important than **ATTEMPTING**

It's not about **TRYING** harder – it's about **TRUSTING** more.

You were never asked by God to **PRODUCE** fruit. You were asked to **BEAR** fruit.

FRUIT PRODUCER

VS

FRUIT BEARER

My attempt to produce fruit brings deeds from my own **ABILITY** and **POWER**.

My attempt to produce fruit is full of striving and **STRUGGLING**.

My attempt to produce fruit is short-lived and only gives the **APPEARANCE** of true Christianity.

My attempt to produce fruit is full of rules, **SELF EFFORT** and never knowing if I've done enough.

Fruit bearing is the result of **FAITH** in the Holy Spirit's work in my life.

Fruit bearing abides in Christ and brings **REST** and peace.

Fruit bearing is eternal, brings **GLORY** to the Father, and is evidence of a true disciple.

Fruit bearing is when I allow the Holy Spirit to work out the **LIFE OF CHRIST** in me by producing the fruit of grace.



Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Which description of the fruit of the Spirit (*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*) comes most naturally for you? Which is the most difficult? Which one has God been challenging you with most recently?
- 3) Share about how you have assumed the job of The True Vine, The Gardener, or The Producer? Personally, what is the most difficult part of firing yourself from the other jobs and just focusing on being The Branch?
- 4) In what area(s) is the Holy Spirit challenging you regarding to pruning? What are you cutting out or doing less of to make room for more productive spiritual fruit?
- 5) What does it mean to you to remain/abide in Christ? What are you doing to keep in step with the Holy Spirit? How can others in your Small Group encourage you in that?