



## **Week 5- “Work or Fruit?”**

**In this series we have discovered that the Christianity Jesus taught and modeled is very different from the version of Christianity that our world presents. As we wrap up this series we learn that being a Christian is being like a fruit tree that naturally bears fruit because it's who we are, not because of what we have done.**

1. How do you think the world defines “Christian?”
2. Why do you think people often try and earn “favor” with God by doing the right thing? Have you found yourself trying to measure where you stand with God based on what good things you are doing?

### **Read Galatians 3:11-14**

3. Discuss the idea that when our hearts are changed at the root it produces the kind of character that is not dependent on external things.
4. Justin described that so often Christianity is presented like a “Christmas tree,” where we feel the need to put on the things that make us look pretty. But we often forget that a Christmas tree is dead! It is not connected to any roots and it's only a matter of time before it wilts and dies. The true picture of Christianity is a fruit tree. Fruit trees don't strive to bear fruit, it's just who they are based on where their roots are. Discuss these two pictures of Christianity as a group.

### **Read Galatians 5: 2-6,16-25**

5. Is there freedom that comes knowing you don't have to strive to produce fruit?

**A Christian is someone who:**

- Humbly understands they have a sinful human nature and surrenders that nature to God.
- Knows that they have His Spirit in them and that He produces the fruit in them.

6. How does this truth help you overcome the shame you may feel when you mess up?

7. What does it look like for you to live this out in your daily life?

8. Will you take a step daily to evaluate the fruit that is coming out of you? Will you ask yourself, "What is the fruit of my relationships, and my interactions?" Is it anger, impatience, and a desire to control? Or is it love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

9. When things like anger, impatience, and anxiety come out in you, instead of feeling shame will you allow it to remind you that you are human, and allow it to be a warning that there is something in your heart that is blocking the fruit?

Ask yourself: What is blocking the fruit from coming out?

**If you have put your faith in Christ He has put His spirit in you. Christianity teaches that we will carry around our human nature until we die, but His fruit and His life grow in us and makes us more like Jesus.**