

Understanding Grace Session 5 – The Fruit of Righteousness

I. Review/Previous Sessions

A. Session 1 – Introduction to Grace

B. Session 2 – Saved by Grace

C. Session 3 – Established in Righteousness

D. Session 4 – Grace and Rest

II. The Fruit of Righteousness

A. **Isaiah 32:17 (NIV)** – *The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.*

The first fruit of righteousness is peace, quietness, and confidence. *This is “REST”.*

B. **Philippians 1:9-11 (NKJV)** – ⁹*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹being filled with the **fruits of righteousness**, which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

1. There are “Fruits” of righteousness.

Righteousness produces a harvest

2. Fruits of righteousness = the outward evidence and manifestation of God’s righteousness working in and through me.

C. **Matthew 7:15-20 (NKJV)** – ¹⁵*“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or*

*figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰**Therefore by their fruits you will know them.***

1. **You will know them by their fruits** = fruits are the outward visible evidence of what is hidden on the inside.
2. **By their fruits you will know them** = One may consider the “Fruit” to really know what is motivating a person on the inside.
3. Fruit is important!
4. This passage is not speaking of Christians who make occasional mistakes, but rather those who have experienced NO inner transformation who continue to produce the same fruit as prior to salvation.
 - a. If there is NO fruits of righteousness, one may have never been born again.
 - b. Jesus is declaring that if no good fruit exists and all fruit is bad, then that person is not what/who they claim to be.
Note: The context is speaking of false prophets.
5. As born-again people, we should possess “Fruits of Righteousness”.
 - a. Because I am righteous, I now manifest the harvest/fruit of righteousness.
 - b. I am not righteous because of my fruit; I have fruit because I am righteous.
Note: The moment this is confused; righteousness is limited of being able to produce fruit through me.

III. Real Transformation/Real Fruit

A. The Spiritual Transformation

Romans 6:1-14 (NLT) – ¹Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ²Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ⁵Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. ¹²Do not let sin control the way you live;^[a] do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

1. Paul had taught grace on such a level that it was easy for the people to think they could continue in sin so grace could be magnified.
2. When "GRACE", is taught appropriately, it will always be possible for people to be tempted to believe that real grace gives place for sin. My personal example when I taught Romans for the first time.

3. Paul had to go back and explain that grace does not give place to sin. Instead, grace gives empowerment to overcome sin.

B. The First Step to Real Transformation is “Right Believing”

1. We must believe that we are Righteous in Jesus.
2. We must believe that our righteous standing is a gift from God not based upon our performance.
3. Real transformation begins with “Faith” to accept what Jesus did for us.
Jesus made us righteous because it is impossible for us to make ourselves righteous.

C. Other Necessary Steps for Real Transformation

1. Put on the New Man

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NKJV) – ¹⁷*This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as ^[a]the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰**But you** have not so learned Christ, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²that **you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³**and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,** ²⁴and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- a. There should be change of conduct when we are born again.
- b. Although we are “Righteous”, we must still do some things for the fruits of righteousness to manifest in us.
- c. We must “Put off the Old Man”.
- d. We must “Put on the New Man”.
- e. The Process = vs 23 – Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

2. Renew Your Mind

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) – ¹I beseech ^[a]you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your ^[b]reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- a. The actions of our body should be sacrificed to the Lord.
- b. The “Transformation” comes by the renewing of the mind.
- c. The first area of mind renewal is to understand righteousness.
*I am saved/righteous by grace through faith.
I am not trying to produce righteous works to become or maintain my salvation/righteousness.*
- d. Now that I am assured of my righteous standing with God, I can begin the process of renewing my mind to “His Ways”.
*Prior to salvation, your mind was accustomed to thinking according to the ways of this world.
After Salvation, you must renew/train your mind to think in alignment with God.
Failure to renew your mind will result in actions of the flesh/sin.
Your un-renewed mind will lead your body into actions that are contrary to God’s ways despite your born again spirit.*