

Bearing Fruit

Purpose & Identity

(John 15:8)

- Introduction:
1. This year, our elders want us to focus on what the Bible teaches about “bearing fruit.”
 2. I commend them because this topic is both critical to our salvation and probably challenging to all of us.
 3. Ills. of getting my picture for the senior yearbook, for clubs in which I never participated.
 4. It doesn’t work that way in being a disciple of Christ.
 5. Being a disciple of Jesus has expectations, namely, we must bear fruit.
 6. In this lesson, I want to give two reasons why we need to be bearing fruit.

I. **Our Purpose for Bearing Fruit**

- A. “That you bear much fruit” (John 15:8).
- B. A foundational purpose of our existence is to glorify God.
 1. (1 Corinthians 10:31).
 2. (Revelation 4:11).
 3. (Matthew 5:16).
- C. Notice the amount of fruit is stated.
 1. “Much fruit.”
 2. (1 Corinthians 15:58).
 3. How would you characterize your “fruit bearing?”

II. **Our Identity in Bearing Fruit**

- A. “You will be my disciples” (John 15:8).
- B. Discipleship hinges on bearing fruit.
- C. Jesus spoke of the fate of those who did not bear fruit (John 15:6).
- D. It’s not enough to have been baptized at one point and have your name on a church roll and your picture in a directory – we must bear fruit...not even that, but “much fruit!”
- E. This serves as a reminder – Christianity isn’t comfortable. It’s challenging, difficult, sacrificial, and costly.
- F. (Matthew 16:24-26).

- Conclusion:
1. I want to challenge you to examine your life and realize that our identity in Christ is tied to bearing much fruit.
 2. We have work to do.
 - a. We live among people who are lost and need to experience the salvation Jesus offers.
 - b. Together, we can bear much fruit and in so doing, we can fulfill our purpose (bring glory to God) and assure our identity (be a disciple of Jesus).