

An Introduction to Fruitopia!
Fruitopia, Part 1
Slide Notations

“I am the Vine, My Father is the Grower, you are the branches; and He is glorified by much fruit!”

Fruit: the ripened, edible, usually sweet, juicy, fleshy part and product of a plant!

Utopia: An ideally perfect place, especially in its social, political, and moral aspects. A place not like any other place!

Fruitopia! A place unlike any other where the people, with a wide open connection to the Vine of Life, produce sweet, juicy fruit to glorify God!

Christianity is not one of the major world religions. It is not a set of rules and high ideals... Christianity is the life-style of God, modeled by Jesus, the Christ, with a built in expectation... That those who call themselves by His name would live and bear fruit that glorifies God!

Our Text: “I am the Vine Stock, My Father is the Grower! Every non-bearing branch in Me – He cuts off. Every fruit-bearing branch in Me – He prunes to make more productive. You have been pruned by the words I am speaking to you; “Live in Me. Let Me live in you. Like a disconnected branch cannot bear fruit on it’s own, you can’t bear fruit aside from your connection with Me! I am the Vine and you are My branches! If you remain connected to Me you will bear a harvest of fruit... apart from Me you will have none; so you will be cut off, withered, bundled and burned. Live in Me and let My words live in you, and your prayers will be heard and answered! This is how My Father is magnified, that you produce a lot of fruit as My disciples!” **John 15.1-8**

Asides... Is Jesus telling us the truth? Or is He just trying to be scary? Does God cut off unfruitful people? Is the context merely unproductive Jews, “cut off” to make room for the gentile “grafts?” **R11.17-36** Hooray for us!? Or does “cut off, withered, burned” apply to believers/branches who don’t produce? If it does, **where’s the love?**

You are God’s vineyard, you are His building. Watch what you do! If any one builds on this foundation (of Christ) gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; his work will become evident for the day of judgment will reveal it because it will be exposed by fire. The fire will test every one’s work to see what kind it was. If the work abides, the one will receive a reward. If it is burned the one will suffer loss but he will be saved but as coming through a fire! **1Cor3.9-15**

The Love? The reality of His love is that unproductive, “too soft” for any good purpose other than producing fruit... **He receives us without receiving anything from us... but us!**

He will burn every unfruitful work, but the person who is His will still be His! Our salvation has nothing to do with bearing fruit! Our salvation is completely secure in Jesus!

But His greatest desire is that we would glorify Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by bearing much fruit!

John 15.1-8 The Grand Union between the Father, Son and church! The connectivity of disciples (branches) with Jesus (Vine)... **FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE FATHER (Grower)! Who, for the**

purposes of ever better, sweeter, fruit – prunes the branches! The branch is the purpose of the vine... The fruit is the purpose of the branch...

John 15.1 Focuses us on the Excellency of the Grower! “My Father is the husbandman!” A savvy Cultivator of the Vine, who... Prepared the stock for generations **Mt 1, Lk3, R15.12, Rev 5.5** Planted The Vine at precisely the right time Gal 4.4 In soil that was just right for a miracle: dry! **Isaiah 53.2**

Our Context! The One who plants a vineyard expects to be the first one to eat of it’s fruit.” **1Cor9.7, 2Tim2.6** People who bear His seed in an honest and good heart hear the word, keep it, and bear fruit with patience! **Lk 8.15** Men, like trees, are known to be good or corrupt by their fruit! **Lk 6.43,44**

“A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’” **Luke 13.6-9**

Jesus was hungry and when He saw a fig tree along His way He approached it but found nothing but leaves. He said to it, ‘let no fruit grow on you any more.’ When the disciples saw it the next morning they marveled that the tree dried up from the roots! **Mt 21.18-20 Mk 11.13**

The way the Father is glorified is when you bear much fruit as My disciples... remember, I have chosen and ordained you to go and to bear fruit and bring Him that fruit, fruit that remains!” **John 15.8,15,16**

The Context of the texts! The Cultivator prunes and protects the branches as He patiently waits for fruit... Fruit is important to Him and should be to every believer!

Good Fruit... Karpos: pluck able, ever more, ever sweeter-to-the-taste, fruit! Not “sour grapes that the fathers have eaten and set their children’s teeth on edge” Jer 31.29,30 Ezek 18.2,3 Good fruit that is the result of a good “inner” nature/connection! Mt 7.17ff Fruit that glorifies God, for His planting, His grafting, of us into the Vine!

Bad Fruit... Is available in abundance today because of the bad inner nature/connection of believers who don’t know the danger! “Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.” Mt 7. 19 Bad fruit/bad branch/dead wood... invites disaster! “Cut off, cast out, bundled, burnt...”

Even Jesus had to bear fruit for God! No fruit of righteousness? No offering for sin! No payment for sin? No satisfaction of the law! No cleansing of the penalty? No eternal life with God! Jesus’ fruit, glorified God and remains for ever... in us and millions more!

Too many branches, trying to bear fruit by themselves, apart from the Vine, are being carried away... “Fruit” is getting infected, drying out, and rotting... and the world is no longer eating from the Tree! But good trees still bear good fruit, and those who bear get pruned, to bear even more good fruit!

Connected?

1. Stop apologizing for being a sold out Christian/believing the Word of God! “Apart from Him you will do nothing!” We have no independent fruitfulness! The world has no “eternal sap” to give! And we have no one else to glorify! Rick Warren’s debacle?

2. Don't mumble or fumble with the truth! Hear it, pursue it, stand for it, die by it! Get active in the fight for right! Afa.net Frc.org Worldviewweekend.com (Be careful with your opinions and vocal about your convictions, because our enemies are!)

3. Submit/be glad about Father's pruning! *Scrutiny* of the branches for fruit, bugs, blight and bearing abilities! Klados: small branch, leaf/bud/fruit. Klema: larger vine-branch/connection/support. "Sacrifices" we make to bear for Him! *Cleansing moments* that draw you back, from unfruitful works!

"Do not despise the chastening of the Lord. He chastens those He loves. If you are without chastening you are not connected! Submit yourself and live! It's not pleasant for the moment but it's the future fruit of righteousness we're all interested in. So lift up your hands, refresh yourself, and get going on the straight way! **Heb 12.5-17**