

Relevance!
Fruitopia, Part 9
Slide Notations

So far... Dealing w/the **Fruit of the Vine...** not the Fruit of the Spirit!

Fruit of the Vine comes from coming alive in Jesus and letting Him live in us! **J15** *Natural traits of connection!* “We is what He is!” “We are what He are!”

Fruit of the Spirit comes from living and dwelling with the Holy Spirit in us! **Gal 5.22** *Matural traits of continuance!* We are being formed in the image of God! But we don’t begin that way!

From the beginning... We began as a “Work of the Flesh!”

The works of the flesh shine, they are; Adultery, pornication, moral impurity, sin w/o care, image worship, “Pharmekia,” hostility, contentiousness, unfavorable zelos, factiousness, dissensions, disunity, ill will, murders, intoxications, letting loose, and such : As I have also told you before, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (17+) **Gal 5.19-21** Add the additional WOF... Boys-for-men, sodomites, thieves, abusers, robbers... **1C6.9-11** Pleonektes: never enough desire **Eph5.5** Tormenting lusts, over-longing for the forbidden, idolatry of greed **Col 3.5** (27+) With: some were such of you; children of disobedience; the way you walked when you lived in them... GREAT CASE FOR A NEW START!

Whatever part of that old life we had, we are now called to a new high life in God!

So... Grafted in the Vine we need to bear the Fruit of our connection... Out of the world we “put to death” the works of the flesh that get us cut off... We submit ourselves to the training of the Holy Spirit to bear His Fruit... (9) And along with His (9) gifts we head into the world to make a difference!

With the Fruit of the Vine... We bear and model the image of God! Extend His finished forgiveness! We burn w/a pounding passion for lost souls; people who are like what we were! And we do it w/a Revelation of Heaven knowing...

“THIS LIFE IS NOT WHAT THIS LIFE IS ALL ABOUT!”

ROH! Is what defeats the “Pride of Life” which is “not of the Father but of the World!” It keeps us moving forward when we fall! It keeps us from looking back when weak! It keeps us focused on the big issues! It’s what enabled Jesus to live sinless! *It is the Fruit of the Vine and if we are in Him, it should be in us!*

So now we come to the fifth fruit of the Vine... Relevance...

Dictionary: Pertinence to the matter at hand. 2. Applicability to social issues. 3. The capability to select and retrieve data appropriate to a user's needs. Depict-ionary: Making sure that the things people see are interpreted in ways they understand! 2. Making sure that what we show them of the Kingdom of Heaven is clear and accurate; our words and actions aligned w/expectations.

Jesus came to give us a pertinent and applicable view of God and His Kingdom in the most clear and accurate terms! The world hated Him for the interruption of their “flow” and the religious hated Him for the clarity He brought into their fog... And His relevant; clear, accurate, applicable, presence through us, is still a source of irritation with both groups!

Relevance in the World... How far do you have to go w/clear application of God before you hit a wall? “You’ve gone crazy!” **A26.24 Mt10.36** People try to make us seem “small!” “How can Jesus be the

only way?" **J14.6** Laws being passed to shut us up! *PA House/done, CA city 8/05* **A4.18ff** Powers dismantling/heritage! **2K17.6ff** Nations waiting our demise! **Rv18**

Will let us live, preach... As long as we tell Bible stories from the Cosmic Comic Book...As long as we keep it in the confines of our church walls and don't try to make application to our daily lives... Especially not politics, science, economics... As long as we don't attempt to make it a measure of success for them!

**But Jesus didn't tell Bible stories! When He said "it is written," bombs went off...
And when He said, "it is like," it was clear, relevant, life changing language!**

Word given to us for structure, conviction, correction, instruction... and living examples... so that we might know how to live!

Relevance in the Church... Has become a hot button topic! Some think that relevant means we talk, act, and look like the world! Church Emergent pastors who swear in their pulpits because it's real! Fresh air! *Really?* Leaders who drink, smoke and dip because that's what their congregations do... *Doesn't that make them the followers?*

God's idea of relevant is an everyday man armed with the truth that applies pertinently to every living situation!

Relevance in the Church... Spawned "Church Emergent" Movement. Don't talk much about the Cross or atonement because it makes us feel bad, or things like Noah's Ark because we feel judgment... *More about feelings than hard truth.* "We stand in awe of a God we cannot understand or explain..." *So what about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Word?* Throw out Christianity and embrace Christian spirituality! And even though God hasn't, they throw out the traditional Church... Building churches w/wine bars, yoga and martial arts classes, sexual diversity training and Oprah's book of the month... Churches that embrace Muslims/ Buddhists as *fellow believers* in God; called many names/accessed many ways... (Which is hatred/apathy, not tolerance/unity). We have a mission to our *fellow searchers* that they can't live without!

Mission Statements... "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ – it is the power of God to save all who believe!" **R1.17** "Justified by faith we have peace w/God thru Jesus Christ our Lord!" **5.1** "The gift of God is eternal life thru Jesus Christ!" **6.23** "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!" **10.13** You are all the children of God... by faith in Jesus Christ!" **Gal3.26** "Blessed be God the Father who pre-destined us to adoption by Jesus Christ according to His will!" **Eph1.5** "He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life." **1J5.12** "Jesus is the firstborn – who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood!" **Rv 1.5**

Relevance in the Church... Preachers that compromise truth for the sake of inclusion... *"the great Western heresy is that we can be saved as individuals, that any of us alone can be in right relationship with God."* And stand and fight for emotional causes that ignore applicable, clear, relevant Bible truth... "let us work together to defeat the 5 global giants: war, poverty, corruption, disease, and illiteracy..." Warren, Muslim Summit, July 09

Relevant talk... "Wars come from your lusts... unfulfilled lusts you'll kill for!" **Jam4.1,2** "The poor will always be w/you..." **Mk 14.7** Corruption: "The heart is deceitful above all things & desperately wicked." **Jer 17.9** Disease: "There will be no more death, sorrow, crying, pain, things that defile, or curse there." **R21/22** Illiteracy: do we honestly believe that it is more important for the church to teach people to read than understand the Gospel?

Stick with the Word of God and you won't be drawn into helpless causes with the frustrations!

Others, like us, think relevance has to do with communicating truth is a way that the people who see/hear us understand! Relevance is an issue of accurately transmitting a picture of what God is like by the way we live, think, act! Relevance is drawing near to the One who really is the only real One...

And we become more relevant to society the more like Him we become! Because only when we are like Him can we ever truly begin to relate to others situations and needs... And bring them the power for living!

Fruitopia... A place unlike any other where the people with a wide open connection to the Vine of Life, produce sweet, juicy, fruit in abundance for the One who is glorified by much fruit!

Grafted In!

I make no apology for living in the Vine!

I don't fumble or mumble w/His truth!

I submit to His pruning because it will cause me to bear even more fruit!

I hold myself accountable for the fruit of relevance I am called to bear!

I prepare myself in God's word to be ready to give a reason for what I believe!

I can take a lickin' and keep on tickin'!