

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Summertime & Fruit

Fresh, juicy fruit!

What are some of your favorite fruits?

- I love pulling up to a fruit stand outside of Yakima on Hwy 410
- **Apples, cherries, plums, peaches, pears, nectarines, grapes...**
- **Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries...**
- **Watermelons, cantaloupe, crenshaw, honeydew, casaba...**

Landscapers lunch!

- **SO** refreshing!!

Offseason fruit treats too

- Pies, tarts, cobblers, crisps, scones, etc...

What do you suppose God's favorite fruit may be?

- **Galatians 5:22-23**, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"
- Are they as **sweet & refreshing** to us as they are to Him?

Like the love languages, some fruit is more desirable to us than others

- What we **enjoy most**, we will enjoy **sharing the most**
- We want others to be able to enjoy what we enjoy too

Not surprising, love is the first of **God's favorite fruits**

- **He loves to love**
- It should be first on our list too

How are fruits obtained?

- Unlike gifts given, they are grown...
- **Planted, cultivated & harvested**
- Only then can they be given

Unlike the delicious earthly fruit we eat & enjoy...

- We can't buy these heavenly fruits in a store

How does God grow this fruit in us, and **why**?

John 15:1-8

- **Vs. 1**, "I am the true vine, and **My Father is the vinedresser.**"
- **Vs. 2**, "Every branch **in Me** that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

Vs. 2 may be one of the most misinterpreted verses in the English Bible

- **First of all**, Jesus said "Every branch **in Me**"
- How secure are we **In Christ Jesus**?

Do we believe the Father says, that branch in Christ isn't being productive.

- **Get rid of it!**

The word many translations render "takes away," some say "cuts off" or "removes"

- It literally means, "to lift," "to take up" or "to raise"
- It can also be applied, "to sail away" or to "weigh anchor"

It means to lift the branch up out of the dirt that keeps it from absorbing the sun

- Dirt encrusted leaves are hindered & prevented from performing photosynthesis
- The life transformational process of empowering the plant to produce fruit

What is the Master Gardener most likely to do?

- Cut it off & throw it away?
- Or lift it up, clean it off & entwine it with healthy branches so it can thrive?

What keeps us from being fruitful in His behalf?

- The worldly filth that keeps us from absorbing life from the Son

What's He most likely to do with you?

"Every branch that bears fruit **He prunes**, that it may **bear more fruit**."

- New fruit only grows on new wood
- Visit a vineyard or an orchard in February
- Pruning produces more new wood & more fruit

Vs. 4-5, "Abide in Me, and I in you. **As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself**, unless it abides in the vine, **neither can you**, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who

abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**."

Hebrews 12:5-11,

- **Vs. 11**, "Now no discipline seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields **the peaceable fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it."

Will we let God clean & prune our lives of what hinders us?

That's how He grows His fruit in our lives. **Why?**

- To plant it in the lives of other people He loves

II Corinthians 9: 6, "The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously."

Vs. 10-11, "Now the One who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us."

John 20:21, So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Galatians 6:7, "Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

The church is supposed to be like a roadside fruit stand outside Yakima...

- Only we are planting it freely, like the One who planted it in our lives

Starting with God's favorite fruit...

- **Who** do you love?
- **Who** don't you love?
- **Who** will you love?
- **How** will you love them?

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All of the other fruit are expressions of love

- We'll take a look at them next