

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Fruitful Lives

Have you ever grown anything yourself?

- Fruits, vegetables or even flowers

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It didn't happen by accident, did it?

- You decided to do it
- You didn't harvest a crop of blow-ins

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Genesis 1 & 2

- God created light, air, dirt & plants...
- Seasons, fish & birds, land animals & people

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Genesis 2:5,7-8 & 15

"there was no man to till the ground... And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being... The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden... Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."

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What is the most natural thing for people to do?

- Cultivate stuff God makes, growing in the soil
- The first job God ever gave anyone to do

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There was no sin, and all was as it should be

- But because Adam sinned, God cursed the ground
- **Gen.3:17-18**, "Cursed is the ground for your sake"
- "Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you"

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If you're going to grow things, what's the first thing you need?

- Soil to plant & grow in
- Quality, receptive, suitable soil

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The soil we cultivate remains corrupted to this day

- Physically & spiritually

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Jesus knows more about gardening than Ciscoe or Ed Hume

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Matthew 13:3-9 & 18-23

- Cultivate your soil if you want a bountiful crop of His fruit...
- In our own lives, and the relationships we hope to plant God's fruit in

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John 15:1-8 (Vs. 2, "lifts up")

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Vs. 7-8, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples."

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Vs. 16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and **bear fruit**, and **that your fruit should remain**, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

- Ask for what? **His fruit**

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John 18:36, Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world**... now My kingdom is not from here."

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John 15:16 & Galatians 5:22-23

- "I chose you and appointed you that you should go and **bear fruit**, and **that your fruit should remain**"
- "**Fruit of the Spirit**"

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John 16:13-14, "However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He **will take of what is Mine** and declare it to you."

- *God's Fruit grows now & **remains for eternity***

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John 20:21-22, So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**"

- "*Receive the Holy Spirit*"... **to receive His fruit.**

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We don't just receive **from Him**, we receive **Him**...

- And partake of **what is His** with Him...
- Not just in His behalf.

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We enter and live in **the Oneness He is** in the Godhead (**John 17:20-23**)

- Embracing Him living through us
- Him with Jesus, and us with Him
- Not just representing Him

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"Receive the Holy Spirit"... to receive His fruit.

- *We're not just vendors*

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John 15:1-8 & 16

- **Vs. 5**, "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.**"
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We live in a state of **open reception to the Holy Spirit**...

- *Whatever He wants to produce or demonstrate...*
- **In & through us** at any time, with anyone.

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Galatians 5:22-23, The fruit **of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

- *Don't live life without what He grows in you*
- *Keep your pantry well stocked*
- *"Freely you have received. Freely give."*