

## **You Shall Know Them By Their Fruits**

Matthew 7:17-20 – “So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.”

What kind of fruit are we bearing in our daily life, good fruit or bad fruit? We must take a close and honest look at ourselves. What kind of tree am I and what kind of fruit comes forth from me?

The greatest poverty today is not one of food shortage, but one of a lack of Christlikeness. And people are hungry to see it, to see someone showing the fruits of the Spirit.

There's a crisis of a real deep down faith in God today, and many are giving up on Him. And it's not that God has not been active, but rather perhaps that those who profess to be “of God” have not been active enough bearing forth the good fruit, the fruit of the Spirit. And thus many are losing hope that God might be real and relevant to their lives.

People gravitate toward goodness because people seek to be loved. We're happy when we feel loved, and we like to be around those who exude warmth and love. And this is the Christian challenge: to be Christlike.

One of my favorite passages from the Sermon on the Mount is when Jesus says: “let your light so shine...” (Matthew 5:16). Some of us may be afraid to let our light shine. Some of us may not even be sure that we have the light.

Jesus set the example in washing his disciples' feet. Here we see a perfect image of the nature of Christ – one who loves and one who serves. We've got to serve more – letting that light so shine, showing that good fruit, becoming a wellspring of the Love of God.

And as we let it out, more comes in. It feels good to love, and it feels natural, certainly more natural and comfortable than the strangling, suffocating feeling of selfishness.

Let us not just feel privately that “I'm saved,” but let us shine out as fruitful Christians, I lovely to behold – a witness and a testimony to the Love of God. Let us be such bright lights in a time of darkness and confusion. May Christ's Light so shine through us and manifest itself in love and service to our fellow man, that all may seek the Light and find that it (and He) are real.