



path to purpose

Sermon series

Sundays 8:45 & 10:30

Artificial Fruit



John 15:8 New International Version

⁸ This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.

Matthew 7:16-20 New International Version

¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

***True Disciples produce*
*authentic fruit..***

Mark 11 New Living Translation

¹² The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to the tree, “May no one ever eat your fruit again!” And the disciples heard him say it...

¹⁹ That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city.

²⁰ The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. ²¹ Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”

WHY DID JESUS CURSE THE TREE?

- The fig tree was advertising fruit that it didn't possess.
- It had leaves but no figs.
- It had appearance without substance.
- The tree became a living illustration of *counterfeit faith*.
- ✓ *Counterfeit faith has profession without production.*
- ✓ *Counterfeit faith produces religion without relationship.*

QUESTION #1 DOES YOUR FAITH REFLECT THE SPIRIT-LED LIFE?

Galatians 5 New Living Translation

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Fruit is not manufactured.

Fruit is produced.

QUESTION #1 DOES YOUR FAITH REFLECT THE SPIRIT-LED LIFE?

You can imitate joy.

You can fake patience.

You can pretend to be nice.

But only the Holy Spirit can produce genuine fruit.

Counterfeit Christianity modifies behavior.

Authentic Christianity transforms the heart.

QUESTION #2 DOES YOUR FAITH CAUSE YOU TO GRIEVE YOUR SIN?

Authentic Christians still battle with sin.

The difference is they cannot become comfortable with it.

Sin that once excited them now troubles them.

Sin that once felt normal now breaks their heart.

Psalms 51:16-17 New Living Translation

¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.

You do not want a burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.

You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

QUESTION #2 DOES YOUR FAITH CAUSE YOU TO GRIEVE YOUR SIN?

One of the greatest evidences of a genuine relationship with Christ is not perfection...

It's conviction.

Fake hearts don't grieve sin.

Fake hearts justify sin.

Fake hearts excuse sin.

Authentic hearts repent.

QUESTION #3 DOES YOUR FAITH PRODUCE IN YOU A LOVE FOR CHRIST?

Religion can make you love church.

Religion can make you love traditions.

Religion can make you love theology.

Only salvation makes you love Jesus.

Being a true disciple is not merely avoiding hell.

True disciples remain in Christ .

John 15 New Living Translation

15 “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

John 15 New Living Translation

⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

4x's a week challenge
Talk with God, Read your
Bible & Worship Jesus 4x's
a week until August.

QUESTION #3 DOES YOUR FAITH PRODUCE IN YOU A LOVE FOR CHRIST?

A wooden apple can never hunger or feed anyone.

Artificial fruit can never nourish or sustain.

Artificial fruit can never produce more fruit.

A dead branch can never love unconditionally.

A counterfeit Christian can perform religious duties without genuine affection for Christ.

True disciples are pruned to be even more fruitful.

Artificial followers wither away and are thrown into the fire.

Question#4 DOES YOUR FAITH PRODUCE REAL FRUIT?

Jesus said:

Matthew 7:20

"Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."

Real faith produces:

Love, Obedience, Generosity, Forgiveness, Holiness, Compassion, Witness

Fruit is not the root of salvation.

Fruit is the evidence of salvation.

Apple trees produce apples because they are apple trees.

Christians bear fruit because Christ lives within them.

Matthew 7:21-23 New Living Translation

²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘I never *knew* you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

Ginōskō is a New Testament Greek word that translates to "to know" or "to understand." However, unlike simply acquiring facts, ginōskō describes an experiential, intimate, and relational knowledge. It often implies a deep connection between the one who knows and the one who is known .