

John 230 “Only Those Who Remain” John 15:1-2

A branch receives life, it never creates life!

Fruit is character; it’s who we are, therefore it’s not activity or what we do although it might be reflected in what we do, so it’s not measured by what we do, it’s measured by the Holy Spirit’s ministry in us producing His fruit through us which credits God.

Our Lord’s theme in John 13 was His love for us, then in us expressed toward others; then in John 14, it was His peaceful comfort in troubled times and now in John 15 and later in John 16, it will be His joy in us as a result of our obedience to Him.

The Heart of the Lord, like any proud father is filled with joy when He sees us being strong in His might!

The first Lord’s Table or the Last Supper anticipated the Cross and the “True Vine” speech anticipates the Church Age.

All fruit production depends on biblical truth in our souls.

Everything a believer does by way of exhaling divine good is a branch bearing fruit or producing and that’s how we “put on Christ” or have His image formed in us.

If there is sap in the branch from the vine (sap is the life blood of the tree analogous to biblical truth in the soul of the believer), there is fruit on the branch.

If we have biblical truth in our souls, we’ll be producers.

Bearing fruit is a normal exhale by-product from a grace-oriented response to God which has followed a grace-oriented inhale of biblical truth.

Just as sap is the life blood to a plant or tree, biblical truth is the spiritual life-providing substance to the believer.

1st John 1:9 recovery prevents scar tissue of the soul from spreading and inhale and exhale will remove it.

There are many wonderful ways in which believers can depart from this life but the sin unto death, the ultimate in divine discipline certainly isn’t one of them!

These human good expressions are referred to as ‘dead works’ in Hebrews 6:1 because they come from the part of the soul that caused us be spiritually dead, our sin nature. We are not spiritually dead because we commit sins but because we were born in Adam’s likeness.

2nd Timothy 1:9-10 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, God will not live with human good in eternity!

Human good bleeding heart people do much more damage than good in their attempts to influence others.

Quite simply, when a believer fails to inhale and exhale biblical truth, he quickly becomes a non-productive branch.

Non-production means we fail to breathe spiritually; Matthew 4: 4.

And so, any production not based on the filling of the Holy Spirit and the processing of biblical truth is nothing more than unacceptable human good.

We must always remember that external functions do not necessarily measure fruit production.