

God Time Day 1: Our Fruit Reveals Our Vine



You may have heard the saying, “Only God can judge me!” You may have even said it yourself. But is it entirely true? Why do people say it?

The truth is that this news is mostly fake. Yes, only God can indeed judge our value and eternity. But it’s also fake news because what we do (our fruit) is on display for all to see.



Read Jesus’ words in Luke 6:43-44
⁴³For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren’t gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush.



What are you “known by?” Do people see only good fruit?

God Time Day 2: Who is Your Vine?



Read John 15:5-6
⁵I [Jesus] am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Underline the word “remain/s” each time it is used.

Circle what the branch (person) does who *remains* in Jesus.

Draw a ~~line through~~ what happens to the branch (person) who does not *remain* in Jesus.

The word “remain” means “close relationship to.” Jesus is challenging our usefulness. Only through a close relationship with Him can we be used by Him to produce good fruit in ourselves and others.



How do you, or can you, “remain” in Jesus?

God Time Day 3: Look at Your Fruit: Works of the Flesh?



Read Galatians 5:19-21
¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things — as I warned you before — that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Look carefully at the sins (“works of the flesh”) listed above. Which sin do you think is the worst? That’s a “trick question,” so don’t answer it!

The fact is all are bad; Jesus died to cover all sin. While some sins may have greater social, personal, or spiritual impact, all sin is bad.

Look again at the last half of verse 21.

Underline the words “those who practice such things.”

Circle what they “will not inherit.”

The words “practice such things” means living in a sinful pattern without ever being sorry for what you do. Sadly, sometimes those who call themselves Christians don’t act much different. And we should!

Grab a piece of paper. On the left side write a downward list of all the sins listed above. Then draw an arrow from each and write a word or words that are the opposite of that sin. (Use the antonyms in a dictionary or thesaurus if needed.)

Examples:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| Sexual Immorality | → | Sexual Fidelity |
| Hatred | → | Love |
| Drunkenness | → | Sober Mindedness |

Circle the ones on your paper you need to work on.



Confess your sins to God and ask Him to help you do the opposite things!

God Time Day 4: Look at Your Fruit: Walk with Jesus!



Read Galatians 5:22-25
²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

If you haven't, consider memorizing Galatians 5:22-23.



Whose fruit is this? (Hint: the beginning of verse 22.)

Underline the "fruit of the Spirit" listed above.

When we become Christians, God's Holy Spirit comes to live in us. As we submit to God, obey Him, and draw nearer to Him, the Spirit grows fruit in us that we bear for God's glory.

Look at the "opposites" list you made yesterday. On the arrow for each pairing, list an aspect of the fruit from the list above that will help you move from left to right.

Example:



While we may show more of one aspect of fruit than another, and we may not show any of the aspects perfectly, they are in us and will grow more and more by the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

But verse 25 is the key.

Spiritual growth and maturity is about keeping "in step with the Spirit" (walking with God).



What can you do to better "keep in step with the Spirit?" (E.g., read my Bible, pray more, confess and repent, etc.)



Be a bearer of good fruit. Let the Holy Spirit become the most influential person in your life!

God Time Day 5: Change Your Fruit



When we evaluate our fruit and find it lacking, we may need to "change our fruit."



Read Ezekiel 18:30-31b
³⁰"Therefore, house of Israel, I will judge each one of you according to his ways." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "Repent and turn from all your rebellious acts, so they will not become a sinful stumbling block to you. ³¹Throw off all the transgressions you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit..."



What does God tell His people to do in the passage above?

There are some powerful images in the verses above. *Repent, turn... so sin won't be a stumbling block. Throw off transgressions. Get a new heart and spirit!* (I.E., Become and behave like God's people.)

Essentially, God is telling His people to change their fruit and follow Him. Here are three ways you can do the same:

- 1) Start pruning. What things do you need to cut out of your life? (What transgressions do you need to throw off?) What do you need to stop doing? Pruning allows the good fruit to grow. This means that we must stop filling our lives with "fruit killers."
- 2) Repent. What will you repent of today? Repentance simply means telling God you are sorry and then turning 180 degrees away from sin and towards God.
- 3) Live Clean. What clean-living choices will you make? Is there something you need to start doing? Like the people in the passage above, we must choose to behave like God's people.

Remember:



While only God can judge your eternity, your fruit is on display for all to see. Let them see God's Spirit in you!