

“IS YOUR FRUIT FARM HEALTHY?...”

Speaker : Pastor Bernie Hartog

Date : 04 June 2017

JESUS spoke of knowing believers by their fruit.

Matthew 7: 20

“By their fruit you will recognize / know them.”

Read Matthew 7: 15 – 23

1 Corinthians 3: 5b - 9 (AMP)

“... even as the LORD appointed to each his task: I planted, Apollos watered, but GOD [all the while] was making it grow, [HE] gave the increase. So neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but only GOD Who makes it grow and become greater. HE who plants and he who waters are equal, (one in aim, of the same importance and esteem), yet each shall receive his own reward (wages) according to his own labour. For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, labourers together) with and for GOD; you are GOD’s garden and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] GOD’s building.”

Mark 4: 26 - 29

“The Kingdom of GOD is like the farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he is sleeping or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens.

The earth produces the crops on its own – First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the Grain ripens.

And as soon as the grain is ready, The farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, For the harvest time has *come*.”

YOU and I are the fruit farmers
in this story...

GOD grows and ripens people to maturity...

Are we CULTIVATING MATURE and HEALTHY FRUIT for the Kingdom?

GOD WILL REPRODUCE A HARVEST

JESUS said people are like trees:

their fruit tells the story... Matthew 7: 16 – 20

FRUIT, is more than outward acts...

FRUIT, loudly proclaims the tree – of what kind it is...

**FRUIT, JESUS said, would distinguish the false
from the true...**

Isaiah 54: 2b...

Lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

The church exists to be a carrier of the Gospel of CHRIST.

- > **Matthew 28: 19, 20 ~**
3 Main things in there...
- > **Go with the gospel...**
- > **To baptize believers in 'the Name of JESUS'.**
- > **Teach them to obey all that JESUS taught and commanded us to do.**

WHAT FRUIT, THEN, DOES A HEALTHY CHURCH PRODUCE?

FRUIT 1:

The first fruit of a healthy church is “WORSHIP”.

A) To honor GOD...

B) To build people...

To strengthen the body of believers in fellowship together.

> **ACTS 2: 42**

> **Continuing steadfast in the teaching of GOD's Word**

> **Fellowship together**

> **Breaking of bread - eating together**

> **Prayers**

1 Corinthians 14: 24, 25

~ Others will “report that GOD is truly present among you”.

It involves an attitude of awareness...

A conscious entrance into GOD’s Presence –the personal HOLY SPIRIT, perfectly good, who in HIS Love creates, sustains and orders all things.

It also involves our actions – praise, thanks, adoration of our GOD, confession of one’s sin, forgiveness of hurt and offense, with prayers of healing - in present & other needs.

2) A SECOND FRUIT of a healthy church is EVANGELISM:

JESUS intended HIS disciples to win souls...

HE sent them out with the commands,

“preach as you go” and

“make disciples of the nations.”

EVANGELISM takes many forms...

It is the outward penetration & merging with the local community...

Sharing GOD’s Love and Goodness.

3) A THIRD FRUIT of a healthy church is EDUCATION:

Founded upon the eternal truths of the Gospel of CHRIST

A major source of any Christian heritage is the Bible

4) A FOURTH FRUIT of a healthy church is SERVICE:

James 2: 15 – 17

Faith and Good deeds

Wherever the church sees injustice or human need, we are to endeavour to meet those needs that confront, in some way to give whatever we can...

5) A FIFTH FRUIT of a healthy church is FELLOWSHIP:

Unless the roots of fellowship are in the soil of worship, evangelism, education and service, it is superficial.

Fellowship that marks a healthy church is the fellowship of men and women who are focused on doing the LORD's Will & business together - through that local church.

So – are we a good, healthy church?

Yes, there are some blossoms coming on the trees...

Living waters of prayer and concern...

The sunshine of our combined sowing of seed and co-operation – good healthy fruit will be harvested as a result...

Let us strengthen our stakes...

Seek after strength to go higher, wider, deeper, further...

**Let us see GOD's Anointing abide in us for fresh expansion in those 5 Fruits:
Worship – Evangelism – Education – Service – and Fellowship.**