

BEING FRUITFUL CHRISTIANS

*"Abide in me, and I in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself
unless it abides in the vine,
so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
I am the vine, you are the branches;
he who abides in Me and I in him,
he bears much fruit,
for apart from Me, you can do nothing."
John 15:4,5*

REFLECTION

One of the marks of healthy spirituality is the presence of good fruit in the life of a Christian. Of course, bearing good fruit does not depend solely on the effort of the Christian, though being aware of the need to bear fruit and being committed to working on a fruitful life would certainly be a good start in our Christian walk with Christ.

More important than self-effort to bear fruit must be a complete dependence in establishing a close relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a relationship which the Bible describes as abiding in Him. It requires Christians to live with, to keep close to, and to be attached to Jesus, consciously allowing Him to be the life-giving Lord of our life. It is through such close relationship with Jesus that will help us produce good fruit as evidence of our spiritual health.

Bearing good fruit is an important Biblical theme which we must not ignore. For example, in Matthew 7:18-20, Jesus matter-of-factly reminded those who were listening to His teachings that, *"A good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."*

Ultimately how we live our life - whether we become fruit-bearing Christians or Christians who yield bad fruit or Christians who are just plainly barren - will show if we have indeed developed an abiding healthy relationship with Jesus or a lack of meaningful relationship with Him.

Abide in Christ and not avoid Christ, if we want to be bearers of good fruit.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we want to grow as healthy Christ-abiding Christians who will bear good fruit. We want to be close to you, always seeking to follow you, knowing that when we

foster a closer relationship with you, you will nourish our life and help us be fruitful. Keep us healthy. Help us bear good fruit. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for the relaxation of COVID-related control which has now allowed us to return to some semblance of normalcy, where Christians can return to church premises for worship and fellowship; where families can gather for meals and visitation without being limited by the number of persons allowed for such get-togethers; where travel overseas for business or pleasure; or to meet friends and family members can now be done with minimum border restriction.
- Pray for those who are physically sick or emotionally in distress. Bring them before God by names, if they are known to you, that God in His mercy will hear us and heal them.
- Pray to God for social political stability in our country. Ask God to give us political leaders who have only the interest of the country and the people in their heart to lead our country and serve the common good.
- Remember in prayer those poor and vulnerable people who are struggling at the lowest social rung in our community. Pray that their needs will be met, and that God will use us to reach out to them with practical help, informed by love for God and our neighbours.

*"I am the vine and ye are the branches,
Bear precious fruit for Jesus today;
The branch that in me no fruit ever beareth,
Jesus hath said, 'He taketh away.'"
(Knowles Shaw)*

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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