

John 15:1-8 - vs 16 = "Go + bring forth fruit"

- "fruit remain" - nothing spoils faster than

fruit - continuous, fruitfulness
vs 16 = ~~And~~ O's instituted laws

O's law is that all living things reproduce - a species that fails to reproduce will soon become extinct

- 3 degrees or qualities of fruitfulness

Apart from fruitfulness I can't justify my existence in O's sight.

Bear Fruit - vs 2, 6

1- Fruitfulness is proof union w/ X - 1, 6

① superficial, external relation - no fruit because no vital union - if there is life, there will be some fruit.

② Vine grew all over palestine - bore two kinds of branches: fruit-bearing + non-fruit-bearing = taken away

③ The word of Vine is good for nothing - too soft - at certain times of year law required people to bring wood to temple for sacrifices - deputedly laid down that word of vine was not to be brought

④ what is fruit? Gal 5:22 - outward expression of inward nature ← like produced life ^{evidence of}
→ uselessness invites danger

2- Fruitfulness is produced by our union w/ X 4

① - the branches "bear" fruit - they don't produce it.

② all the branch has to do is to be available to the vine

③ vs 4 - "no more can ye" ④ X^{him} fruit is the reproduction of the life of X - ⑤ If branches produced, we, be branches - not vines ⑥ But vine, its life, sap, produces + branch bears.

difference between work + fruit of false fruit

The life of X is to be reproduced in us

X does the producing, we just make ourselves available

Water for fruit

Apart from fruit-bearing I can't justify my existence in O's sight.

II = More Fruit - vs 2 - Gardner isn't content w/ fruit - He wants more fruit. we are to be satisfied w/ a little fruit = poor, shrivelled bunches of grapes hard as marbles -

2- How - Conditioning more Fruit - Pruning, Pruning
① Every branch must bear fruit.
② I assume responsibility for caring & cutting.

3- The chief secret is merciless Pruning - painful
① hacking away ① the dead & ② the rank or rebel shoots - uses up sap w/out fruit -
2y - first time I ever saw dead prune a tree = what waste = but just leaves no fruit. Drain strength

④ Before we can bear more fruit = grow in grace, make progress - I must cut away the things in our life that drain away power, use up the sap.

⑤ This explains why some things happen - I clips us here & there - to bring forth more fruit.

Great lesson - what's needed is not more branches but healthier branches.

⑥ Two natures = one flourishes at the expense of the other

⑦ were not allowed to fruit just 3 years, each year cut back drastically = so as to develop & conserve its energy = wine will never produce crop
It is capable of w/out drastic pruning

⑧ Some things that seem very beautiful & valuable are cut away

a lot of branches & ~~lots~~ leaves doesn't mean success

Only responsibility of branch is to receive nourishment from Vine!!

III - Much Fruit - 5, 8.

1- Its importance - vs 8 (1) It is glorified
(2) become disciples

2. Conditions - important addition in vs 5 - " & 9 in him." our responsibility

(A) won't be abide in us already - Practically, but we must make it practical =

(1) Empty lives of self, make room for X -

(2) This is more intense communion -

- little union little fruit

- much union much fruit.

(3) Get more sap into the branch & there will be more fruit - Have more of the life of X in soul & conduct & speech be more X-like -

(4) not more activity but more communion w/ X.

Don't confuse work & fruit - may produce work, no fruit -
no time to pray, etc. too busy bearing fruit to get sap

1- Don't need more activities but healthier more abiding

2. Don't need more action but more love

Secretly bearing more fruit isn't more activity, etc. - but more communion