

Seven Ways We Produce Fruit

1. Loving Jesus keeps you connected to Jesus.

Acknowledge your great need for Him and thank Him daily.

Psalms 63:1-3 - O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

Believe He really loves you and wants to know you.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Confess sin daily and depend on His faithfulness to forgive.

1 John 1:9 - But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Depend on Him more and more by spending time with Him daily.

2. Loving people keeps you connected to Jesus. *John 15:12-17*

You love God by loving people. *Matthew 25:37-40*

3. Talking about Jesus keeps you connected to Jesus. Testify to everyone around you about all Jesus has done in your life.

*John 15:26-27 - But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry. *Matthew 10: 32-33**

Stay Connected to Jesus by obeying God, loving people and talking about Jesus, and you will be a fruitful follower.

Discussion Questions:

1. How strong would you say your identity is in Christ? Why?
2. Can you think of a time when God pruned something harmful from your life? How have you benefitted from that pruning?
3. Can you think of a time when God pruned something from your life that was keeping you from being fruitful for Him? Was it painful? How have you become more fruitful since that pruning?
4. Discuss how loving people is loving God.
5. Describe how you depend on Jesus in your life. How could you grow in dependence upon Him?

1. Winning people to Christ by being a planter of seeds of truth.

John 4:38 - I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.

2. Winning people to Christ by being a harvester.

John 4:36 - The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!

3. Growing in holiness and obedience.

Romans 6:22 - But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life (KJV).

4. Being a generous and dedicated giver.

Romans 15:28 - As soon as I have delivered this money (in KJV Paul calls this "fruit") and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain.

5. Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

6. Doing good works and growing in knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:10 - And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God (NIV).

7. Praising God with our mouths from our hearts.

Hebrews 13:15 - Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name (NIV).

IDENTITY: WHO I AM IN CHRIST NOW!

Cross Walking: Stay Connected

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I Am Accepted

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified.
1 Corinthians 6:17	I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Him.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20	I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
1 Corinthians 12:27	I am a member of Christ's Body.
Ephesians 1:1	I am a saint.
Ephesians 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Ephesians 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
Colossians 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ.

I Am Secure

Romans 8:1-2	I am free from condemnation.
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Romans 8:31-34	I am free from any condemning charges against me.
Romans 8:35-39	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
2 Corinthians 1:21-22	I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
Philippians 1:6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Philippians 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven.
Colossians 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.
Hebrews 4:16	I can find grace and mercy to help in time of need.
1 John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I Am Significant

Matthew 5:13-14	I am the salt and light of the earth.
John 15:1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ.
1 Corinthians 3:16	I am God's temple.
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
2 Corinthians 6:1	I am God's coworker (see 1 Corinthians 3:9).
Ephesians 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
Ephesians 2:10	I am God's workmanship.
Ephesians 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Last week we learned the keys to being at peace regardless of what we are going through, as we fervently follow Jesus. This week we learn that Staying Connected to Jesus is the key to dying to self and loving others as we Crosswalk.

John 15:1-4 - *I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*

1. Staying connected to Jesus gives you strong and fruitful identity. We Crosswalk the best when we are sure of who we are in Christ. Then we can love out of a position of strength instead of a position of neediness. Jesus gives us strong and fruitful identity by:

- Being our Source of true identity and value
- Pruning - He cuts away what is not good for us, He replaces our old, unhealthy thoughts with new, life-giving words ***John 15:5-7***
- More pruning - He cuts away what keeps us from producing great fruit

2. Staying connected to Jesus results in you producing much fruit, proving you are a true disciple and bringing glory to God.

John 15:8 - *When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.*

3. Staying connected to Jesus sets us further and further apart from the World and its sinful patterns of living. *John 15:18-25*****

The World is constantly and actively trying to break you off from the Vine by offering you illegitimate attachments and bad sap. *1 John 2:15-17*****

How do you stay connected to Jesus? Obey His commandments. *John 15:9-11*****