

Day 26: The Fruit of the Spirit

How will people know that we are Christians? Is it by wearing a cross on our neck? Perhaps, if I bring my Bible to work? What if I have a fish on the back of my car? Well, think of the word Christian. According to Scripture, the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The term “Christian” means “the party of Christ.” Those that were following Jesus were identifying with Him in words and actions. Those looking on, in an attempt to mock them, slapped on this term, “Christian,” which was actually meant to be derogatory. In essence, “Here come those Jesus people. Let’s call them “Christians!” Two thousand years later it is a term most followers of Jesus have proudly worn.

When people see us proclaiming the truth *and* living it they will see something different than what this world has to offer. They will see us becoming more and more like Jesus, and thus they will see what we call “fruit”. Jesus said we would be known by our fruit. According to Scripture, “The fruit of the Spirit consists in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...”(Galatians 5:22-23). Now, this is *one* fruit that is made up of a beautiful combination of all these wonderful qualities. So we don’t look at this and say, “I have love, but I don’t have joy,” or, “I don’t have patience, but I’m kind.” No one exhibited this fruit better than Jesus Christ, and when this fruit is evident and apparent in your life the world will look at you and see Jesus!

Application

- 1. What is your favorite fruit? Describe what it looks like, what it tastes like, and why it is your favorite.*
- 2. Read Ephesians 5:8-10.*
- 3. Think about a challenge God has put before you in your life right now. How is God using this challenge to develop this fruit in your life?*
- 4. Pray for God to make the fruit of the Spirit clear to you and for Him to continually develop this fruit in your life.*