

one in their lives, you can see the difference in their lives. These individuals are pleasant, a joy to be around because they will always have pleasant words when they speak. The world will see the difference in our lives and our attitudes as Christians when we bear good fruit. Those who are mature in the Lord are kind to those around them and they listen to those who have needs for somebody to hear them. They have compassion on their fellow man, are not quick to judge, and are full of mercy and kindness. When a person becomes a Christian, he lets Christ guide his life, not his own desires. The world may not like to hear about the Bible or care for what Jesus did for all mankind, but they do see a difference in those who are true believers in the Lord and the type of fruit they bear.

**Galatians 5:22-26** *22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also*

*walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

Also, as Christians, we will show our true fruit by the love we show toward our fellow brethren. Are we patient and kind toward other Christians? Do we boast of what we have to those who have not? Do we judge our brothers and sisters in Christ by our standards or God's standards? Do we keep a record on all the wrongs a brother or sister may have done to us, not thinking we may have had a part in it? As Christians, do we really love each other as Christians, as Jesus Himself loved us? (**I Corinthians 13:4-7**) Remember, the world is watching us. If we plan on carrying the gospel to those around us living in sin, then we had better start bearing good fruit; not bad fruit. For the time will come when all of us as Christians will be held accountable for what we produced during our life as seen in **Matthew 25:14-28**. So let us keep our hands to the plow, never look behind us, and keep on plowing.

By Bill Davis

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106  
 (806) 352-2809

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## By My Fruit

### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
 10:20 a.m.  
 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
 Charles Kelley  
 Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
 Eddie Cook  
 Bill Davis  
 Pat Goguen  
 Neil Ledbetter  
 Jeff Nunn  
 Fred Perez  
 Rusty Scott

### Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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The other day, my wife and I were shopping at Wal-Mart and as always, we have to go by the fruit area to see what kind of fruit they have and what price they are asking. As we were going through the fruit, we stopped at the apples. And this batch of apples was good. Most of the apples were firm and shiny and they appeared not to be too bruised up from shipping. The bananas were of good color, with a slight hint of green; which was okay, for bananas will usually ripen pretty fast. Now you have to do the squeeze test for the tomatoes. If the tomato is too soft, it will spoil on you quickly; and it's not very useful for salads or sandwiches because it's too soft. When a person goes to buy fruit, he has to be careful. Some fruit is too soft or mushy, some are bruised and some are not ripe

at all due to the shipping. When one goes to the peach orchards to buy peaches, he expects to find peaches on the trees. The same is true for an apple tree, a lemon tree, or a pecan tree. We can tell the type of tree by the fruit it bears. We all will know these trees by the type of fruit they produce; this is the way God made the trees. This is the same way we, as Christians or the world, will identify those we come into contact with in our daily lives. As Christians, the outside world and those in the Church should know us by the fruit we produce in our daily lives; by our words which we speak and by our actions. The most important fruit we share will be our love for God and love for our fellow Christians. There will be nothing false about a Christian who is always growing spiritually stronger

in the Lord.

**Psalms 92:13-15** *13 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, 15 to declare that the Lord is upright.*

A strong Christian, who is always growing in the Lord, will have a heart that is fertile good, ground, productive, never the shallow or rocky soil that is not fit for growing anything.

**Matthew 13:8-9** *8 "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop; some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

The fruit that the strong Christian will bear, as he grows stronger in the Lord, produces a variety of fruit as he gives to those around him.

**Galatians 5:22-25** *22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

When a Christian produces good, strong fruit, he will give fruit that is without defect.

**Ephesians 5:8-10** *8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.*

When a Christian is a mature person, the

fruit he produces will be the product of heavenly wisdom that helped him to be a stronger Christian. He will walk in the wisdom of the Lord and will have God's Word dwelling within his heart. He will fear the Lord, with a humble and thankful heart for God's many blessings. He will study the Bible daily and apply God's Word in his everyday life. He will learn self control that comes with maturity in the Lord. He will be gentle, full of mercy and good works. The fruit he bears will be evident to those around him.

**Ephesians 5:17-21** *17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

**James 3:17-18** *17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

In order for a Christian to bear good fruit, he must be dead to the old life that he formerly lived. He must drink of the true living water that comes from God.

**John 12:24-26** *24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it*

*dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*

**Psalms 1:1-3** *1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

This is the fruit that all of us, as Christians, should bear everyday of our lives. Our old lives should be dead and we should be alive in Christ. Our hearts should always be spiritually receptive to the Word of God. We should always abide in Christ and be in contact with the living water of Jesus. Now those who live an evil life must be admonished that this type of life will lead one to divine judgment from God. For those who bear sinful fruit, the Bible has this to say: **Matthew 3:10** *10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

The main reason that many, including even some in the Lord's Church, will bear unspiritual fruit is that they have been captivated by worldliness. They care more about themselves and the cares of this world. They try to reach fame and fortune and

acquire all the material goods they can get their hands on. God is not part of their financial equation. God is in "file 13" of their portfolio.

**Matthew 13:22** *22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.*

One cannot bear fruit for Christ if he does not abide in Christ and His Word. For how can he? Jesus was light in a world of sin and darkness and the world hated him for that. The fruit of selfishness, bitterness, corruption, envy, and hate can be seen around us.

**Galatians 5:19-21** *19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I told you in the past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

If you don't believe what I am writing, look around you and watch the evening news, local or world. You will see how those in the world today, like those of yesterday, are acting out these things in their daily lives. It is all about self. My needs come first, and I don't care about what it takes to satisfy my desires or get what I want. It's all about self, according to the world. As Christians, who walk in the ways of the Lord, who meditate on the Word of God everyday, and who put God number