

Evaluating What Your Fruit Looks Like

I. Introduction:

A. Have you ever watched someone do or say something, and then think - “do I do that”, “do I say that”, or “do I look like that”? Do you apply such (**I Corinthians 9:27**)?

1. What if you are do, saying, or appearing the same as something you see or hear and consider to be foolish, erring, etc. (**Romans 2:1-3**)?

2. Now, I am NOT suggesting you should measure yourself by others (**II Corinthians 10:12**).

3. However, if you are able to see how something is foolish in others, can you see that in yourself (**Luke 15:1-2**; cf. **Matthew 5:20**)?

B. As we should know, you are known by the fruit you produce (**Matthew 12:33-37** and **Luke 6:43-46**).

1. God examines and judges based on fruit (**Matthew 3:7-10**).

2. Brethren are to judge fruit (**Matthew 7:15-20**).

II. Body: REASONABLY Evaluate Your Good Fruit By Considering What Others See (**Romans 14:16**, **II Corinthians 8:20-21**, and **I Thessalonians 5:22**).

A. Can it be said of you, by others, that they see evidence of good fruit in your life (i.e. **II Thessalonians 1:3-4**)?

1. What does it mean to live above reproach (**I Peter 2:11-3:17**)?

2. Think about how measures sometimes need to be taken as to protect our Lord's reputation through protecting our own (**I Timothy 5:14-15**; **6:1**).

B. Remember that many erringly (**John 7:24**) [**MORE ON THIS LATER**] judge based upon appearance [**flood cars illustration**] (**John 9:1-3**). With that in mind, how does your fruit appear?

1. You may say, “God is my priority” (**Galatians 2:20**), but...

a. If you were watching yourself on a 24 hour recording, what would you see, with your biblical knowledge, that would show God is first in your life? When choices arise, what comes first (**Matthew 8:18-22** and **Luke 14:15-33**)?

b. What would people who know you most say you're learning and interested in most; would it be sports, entertainment, work, fitness, some hobby of yours politics, news, or the Scriptures (**Psalms 19:7-10**; **119:72**; **119:127**)?

c. Of your friends, whom do love most (**I John 4:19-21**)? Does the fruit you produce concur with your words?

2. You might say you do not love this world or the things of this world (**I John 2:15-17**), but...

a. Is your job a means to provide (**I Timothy 5:8**) or a means to be successful in the eyes of men (**John 5:41**)?

- b. Are you happy because you belong to the Lord (**Psalms 89:15** and **Ephesians 1:3**) or because of possessions you have (**Luke 12:15**)?
 - c. How invested are you in this life/world (**Matthew 6:19-21**, **Acts 20:22-24**, and **II Timothy 2:1-4**)?
 3. Take some time to look at yourself through the eyes of others and be honest considering what they see without knowing WHY or WHAT reasoning is behind what you say or do (**Colossians 4:5-6**)!
 - C. Don't just make adjustments ONLY for appearance sake (**Matthew 6:1-5**; **23:27-28**).
 1. For clarity, again, you must care about what others see in you (**Philippians 2:14-16**).
 - a. Many, many times; we should not say or do certain things because of who is watching and listening (**I Corinthians 10:23-33**).
 - b. Being mindful that people of the world aren't your brethren and thus they rarely would understand what moves you (**Proverbs 28:4-5**).
 2. However, don't just do things for the approval of men (**Luke 16:15**).
 3. Do the right things, the right ways, for the all the right reasons (**Hosea 14:9**, **Ephesians 4:1**, and **I Thessalonians 4:1-2**)!

III. Conclusion: Are you confident that those watching are seeing holy, just, blameless living in you (**I Thessalonians 2:10-12** and **Titus 2:7-8**)?