

The Power of a Holy Life



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***“¹⁵Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”* (Matthew 7:15-20)**

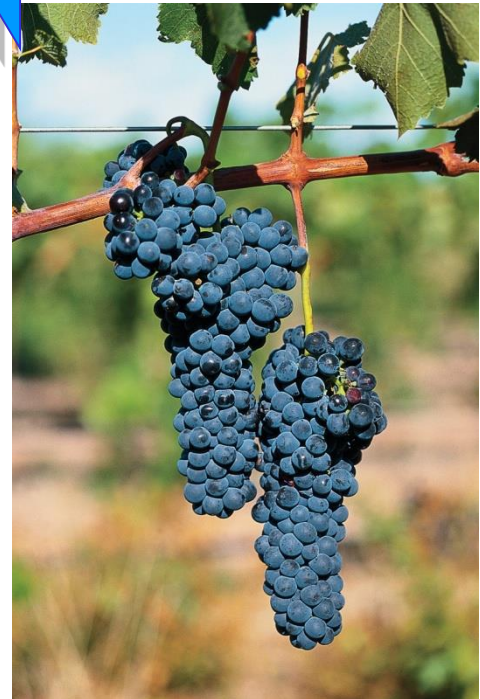
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Matthew 7:15-20

Test for False Teachers

- Not By His Appearance (2 Cor. 11:13-14)
- Not For Being Pleasant (2 Cor. 11:15)
- Not By His Appealing Sound (Rom. 16:17-18)
- Not By His Assertions (Matt. 7:21-23)

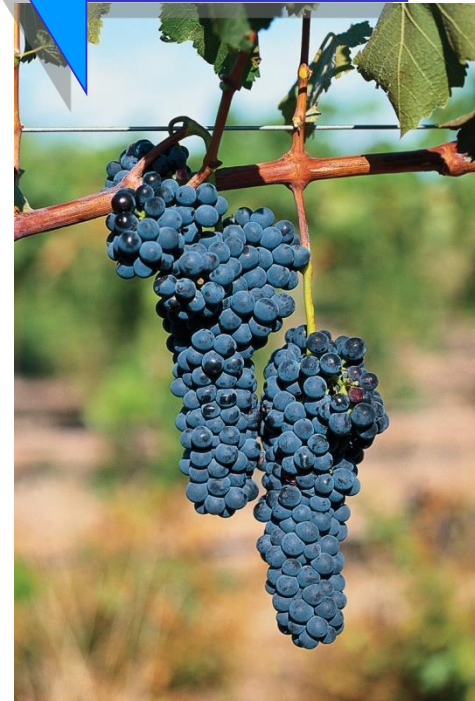
FRUIT



Christians are to bear fruit

*“...do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, **being fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”*

FRUIT



Christ is God's Visual Aid!

1 Peter 2:21

“...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example”



Christians are God's Visual Aids!

1 Peter 2:21

“For to this **you were called**, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His **steps**”



Christians are God's Visual Aids!

Philippians 2:5, 15

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”



Christians are to be beautiful

1 Peter 2:11-12

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”



The Christian's beautiful life

1 Peter 2:11-12

- **The Christian's answer to the heathen's false charges**
- **And the means of converting him!**



The Christians beautiful life

Titus 2:1-10, 14

“speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine...

adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”

Adorn =
Attractive +
Appealing



Beautiful Christians

1 Peter 2:13 – 3:12

**“...be submissive
...of one mind,
having compassion
for one another;
love as brothers,
be tenderhearted,
be courteous...”**



Beautiful Christians

Ephesians 4:25 – 6:9

“...be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us...”



Beautiful Christians

Colossians 3:1 - 4:6

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth...put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering...But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...”



No act of kindness,
is ever wasted.

A movie poster for the film "A Beautiful Mind". The image shows a close-up of a man (John Nash) and a woman (Alicia Nash) in a romantic embrace. The man is looking down at the woman's hand, which is holding a pen. The title "A BEAUTIFUL MIND" is written in a serif font in the upper right corner.

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

“Perhaps it is good to have a beautiful mind, but an even greater gift is to discover a beautiful heart.”

Ephesians 2:10

1 Timothy 6:18

GOD

"Good Works"

1 Timothy 5:10

Acts 9:36, 39

**Opens the Mind
Of
Secular People**

Working of Each Part

1 Cor. 12:14-16; Eph. 4:16

- **Genuine Love For People**
- **A Strong Desire For Church To Grow**
- **Warm & Friendly**
- **Faithful Helpers—(Rom. 16:3-9)**
- **Hospitality Smells Good (1 Pet. 4:9)**
- **Faithful Unto Death**

A Growing Church Is Not Just Personal Evangelism

- They were a **praying people** (Acts 2:41-41, 3:1; 4:24)
- They were a **problem solving people** (Acts 6; 15:4-6)
- They were a **people in which women played a major role**: Lydia (16), Priscilla (18), Paul arrested men and women
- Women did not *“teach nor usurp authority over a man”* (1 Tim. 2:12); but 8 or more women labored in the Lord (Rom. 16:1-15)

A Growing Church Is Not Just Personal Evangelism

- They were a **sacrificial people** (Acts 2:42-44; 4:34-35)
- They were a **people steadfast in the midst of trials and persecutions** – *“They ceased not”*
- We must be willing to suffer hardship and not expect that life in Christ will always be comfortable and convenient.

A Growing Church Is Not Just Personal Evangelism

- **They were a people who loved one another (Acts 20:36-38).**
- **They were a people seeking truth (Acts 2:42).**
- **They were a people who spread the good news (Acts 8:4).**

That Is The
Power
of a Holy Life!

