Redeemed To Bear Fruit

Intro: God sent His Son to this world to redeem man from sin. “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people” (Luke 1:68). Redeemed is to “liberate by payment of a ransom; deliverance, especially from the penalty of sin.” As a redeemed people, we are to bear fruit. But what is the fruit we are to bear? Let us consider this for a few moments.

I. We As A Redeemed People Are To Bear Fruit.
A. John the Baptist instructed those coming to him; Mat. 3:8 “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”
B. In the parable of the sower.
1. Mat. 13:8, 23 “But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold,..." 23But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”
2. Only those who were not good soil (hearts) did not bear fruit.
C. We are married to Christ to bear fruit; Rom. 7:4 “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”
D. To Be Christ’s disciples; John 15:8 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

II. What Is The Fruit We Are To Bear.
A. John 15:1-8, 16 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples...." 16Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”
1. We are in Christ to bear fruit.
2. What is the fruit we are to bear?
   a. Some hold that it is other Christians.
   b. That would make us the vine and they our branches.
3. Context:
   a. John 15:9-15 “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. 11These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord
doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my
Father I have made known unto you.”

b. The fruit we bear is our love for God which is the keeping of His
commands.

B. **Righteousness.**

1. Phi. 1:11 “Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ,
unto the glory and praise of God.”

2. Heb. 12:11 “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous:
nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which
are exercised thereby.”

3. Jam. 3:18 “And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”

4. **What is righteousness?**
   a. 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righ-
teousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
   b. Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments
are righteousness.”
   c. Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the
power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and
also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith
to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
   d. Thus, when one does the commandments of God or obeys the
gospel, he is bearing fruit.

C. **Holiness**

1. Rom. 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.

2. Holiness is from holy which means to be set apart.

3. Holiness is applied as:
   a. Being free from sin.

      (1) Rom. 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into
Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried
with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from
the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in
newness of life.”

      (2) Rom. 6:17-18 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin,
but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was
delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants
of righteousness.”

   b. Being consecrated to God’s service.

      (1) Rom. 6:12-13 “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that
ye should obey in the lusts thereof. 13Neither yield ye your members
as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto
God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as
instruments of righteousness unto God.”

      (2) Rom. 6:19-20 “I speak after the manner of men because of the
infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants
to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your
members servants to righteousness unto holiness. 20For when ye were
the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.”

D. **Eph. 5:9** “(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth:)

1. Goodness—“uprightness of heart and life, kindness.”
2. Righteousness
3. Truth—“truth as a personal excellence; that candor of mind which is free from affection, pretense, simulation, falsehood, deceit”

E. Phi. 4:17 “Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.”
1. Paul was in prison in Rome; and the brethren at Philippi sent him a generous contribution by the hands of Epaphroditus.
2. By their help of Paul they were exhibiting the fruit of their discipleship.
3. When we give to the Lord’s cause we are bearing fruit.
   a. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
   b. 2 Cor. 8:6-7 “Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”
   c. 2 Cor. 9:6-8 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”

F. Col. 1:6, 10 “Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:...10That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”
1. Immediate Context:
   a. Col. 1:7-12 “As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; 8Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. 9For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;”
   b. When you learn the truth.
   c. Having a love in the Spirit.
   d. There is Paul’s prayer that they be filled with:
      (1) A knowledge of God’s Will.
      (2) With wisdom.
      (3) With Spiritual understanding.
   e. Walking worthy.
   f. Exhibiting Patience.
   g. A Joyous life.
   h. A thankful life.
2. Remote Context:
   a. Col. 3-4
b. When we mortify (put to death) certain actions; Col. 3:5-9 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”

c. When we put on certain things; Col. 3:10-17 “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, meekness, longsuffering; 13Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

d. Family relations; Col. 3:18-4:1 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. 20Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. 22Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. 4:1Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.”

e. Praying; Col. 4:2-3 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; 3Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:”

f. Their conduct toward outsiders; Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

g. Proper speech; Col. 4:6 “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

G. Rom. 1:11-13 “For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; 12That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. 13Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.”

1. Paul had the desire to come to Rome to impart spiritual gifts (miraculous gifts) to them.

2. The purpose of the impartation of spiritual gifts was to establish Christians in the faith.

3. Thus, strengthening other Christians is a part of fruit bearing.

a. We cannot impart miraculous powers to others.
b. We can strengthen others today by teaching others; Acts 20:32
“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

H. Christian Graces
1. 2 Pet. 1:3-11 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

a. Faith
(1) This is our own personal faith which comes as a result of a study of the Scriptures
(2) This attribute is presupposed.

b. Virtue
(1) This means, “moral goodness, moral excellence.”
(2) It is the courage to act according to what is right.

c. Knowledge
(1) This is the acquiring and understanding of information.
(2) This is the knowledge that brings growth, perfection, and maturity to the Christian.
(3) Col. 1:9 “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

d. Temperance
(1) This is self-control and literally means to hold oneself in.
(2) This is the ability to keep one’s appetites, desires, tongue, temper, and thoughts under control.
(3) Mat. 15:19 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”

e. Patience
(1) This word ὁπομονή (hupomone) literally means “abiding or remaining under” and denotes endurance or steadfastness.
(2) It characterizes the man who is unswerving in his deliberate purpose to serve God even in the midst of heartache and trial.
(3) Rom. 2:7 “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life;”

f. Godliness
(1) This is to show piety, reverence, respect toward God.
(2) It is this which causes us to give God the place in our lives, and worships and serves God in the right way.

(3) 2 Pet. 3:11 “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”

g. Brotherly Kindness
(1) From the Greek ἔλασσον (philadelphia) which is love for brethren.
(2) It is the concern that Christians should have for each other.
(3) Rom. 12:10 “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”

h. Charity
(1) This is ἀγάπη (agape) love.
(2) It is seeking someone else’s well-being above everything else, and sacrifice self for them.
(3) Mat. 22:37-39 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

2. When we add these things, we will not be “barren nor unfruitful”; we will bear fruit.

I. Fruit of the Spirit
1. Gal. 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

2. Love—this is ἀγάπη (agape) love.

3. Joy
a. It is an inner gladness of the soul.
b. Because we have fellowship with God
(1) Phi. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
(2) 1 John 1:4-7 “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 6 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
c. Because of our hope of heaven; Luke 10:20 “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”

4. Peace
a. This is an inner tranquility of mind because one is in a right relationship with God; Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”
b. Phi. 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
5. Longsuffering
   a. This is not the patience of 2 Pet. 1:6 but is μακροθυμία (makrothumia) which is the self-restraint which does not retaliate a wrong hastily.
   b. Rom. 12:17-19 “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

6. Gentleness (Kindness—ASV)
   a. This is moral goodness, kindness, and integrity.
   b. Longsuffering is passive; Gentleness is active in nature.
   c. Rom. 12:20-21 “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
   d. Eph. 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

7. Goodness
   a. That moral quality which is beneficial in its effect.
   b. Rom. 15:14 “And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”
   c. Illustrated by Dorcas; Acts 9:36, 39 “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did....39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.”

8. Faith (Faithfulness—ASV)
   a. As used here it is more trustworthiness; the character of one who can be relied on.
   b. Tit. 2:10 “Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”
   c. It takes faithfulness to the end to be saved; Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

9. Meekness
   a. It is strength that has been brought under the control of God.
   b. It is the person who is under the control and restraint of God, and manifested in submission to God and gentleness to man.
   c. Col. 3:12 “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, meekness, longsuffering;”
   d. Tit. 3:2 “To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.”

10. Temperance—Same word as in the Christian graces.

III. IS THE FRUIT OF A CHRISTIAN ANOTHER CHRISTIAN?
   A. Where is the Scriptures that teaches such?
B. **This could only be said in an indirect way.**
   1. A part of bearing fruit is doing good works.
   2. People see our good works and are brought to Christ through our example; Mat. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

C. **Our responsibility:**
   1. We have the responsibility to preach to the lost.
   2. We do not have the responsibility as to whether or not they receive the Word.

D. **God is the one who gives the increase.**
   1. 1 Cor. 3:6-7 “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”
   2. Thus the fruit is God’s not ours.

IV. **Consequences Of Not Bearing Fruit.**

A. **Jesus said; John 15:2, 6** “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit....6If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

B. **Rom. 6:20-21** “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 21What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.”

C. **Rom. 7:5** “For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.”

**Conclusion:** Only by bearing fruit can we gain eternal life; John 4:36 “And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.” Let us bear fruit for God in our lives.