

Fruits of the Spirit pt. 1

If I tied apples to the branches of a dead tree, does it become an apple tree? Why not? It looks like one. What happens? If religions tie good works & devotion to the limbs of a dead person, do they become a Living Christian? Why not? Result?

ALL religions Denominations faiths beliefs tie good works & devotion & traditions to their branches, but they are dead trees and they must continually keep tying new ideas & new deeds & new devotion as the old rot and fall off.

The Living Branches of the One Living Vine are completely different...

Gal. 5: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ALL Religions, Denominations, Beliefs, and Spiritual Faiths turn this BACKWARDS

1. **No Law becomes LAW** Religious rules. Man's Traditions. Behavior regulations. Personal feelings of right & wrong. These are the "fruits" that spiritual groups collect. Good works. Prayerful devotions. Tithing. Clothing. Worship *other?*
2. **They attempt to tie these "fruits" to the dead branches of their beliefs with cords of SELF-CONTROL.** **"I Will...?"** Self Control slowly dies to temptation & habit and decays. Self Control rots into trying to CONTROL OTHERS. **"You will"**
3. **Gentleness CANNOT control others** and decays into strict discipline, threats, coercion to MAKE others conform to Law. Discipline and threats become formalized and repeated decaying into factions who follow their own opinions of Law.
4. **Faithfulness mutates into fanaticism** for one's own beliefs & convictions about Law & Tradition excluding all questioning. **Faith becomes an empty word** that different beliefs can fill with their own meanings & mean with their own feelings.
5. **Goodness disappears** with resentment and accusations against all who reject their "faith" and condemnation becomes "good" Argument & debate replace open minded free thinking and discussion, the most argumentative becoming the most *righteous*
6. **Kindness is seen as weakness** as obstructing & condemning false brethren & beliefs becomes the evidence of "true faith" Preaching AGAINST false beliefs & false brethren replaces teaching hearts & minds to love their enemy with compassion
- 7 **Patience cannot be tolerated** in the fight against false doctrine & false teachers since God must be protected at all cost! God becomes a helpless victim of lies & deceit and the Truth crumbles under false teaching unless we fight for God! Kill?
8. **PEACE is obliterated** as all factions and fractures war against each to save their own one true god and their own "truth" Each group establishes their own territory & boundaries and arms their believers with indignation & anger to protect it.
9. **JOY is only found in taking captives** from other beliefs while trying to destroy the beliefs of those who will not change. Outsiders soon see all religions & denominations & beliefs as joyless, pointless rules & rituals that tear people down
10. **LOVE is destroyed** as each group sets themselves against all other groups and against itself with suspicion & doubt. **Self promotion & false modesty become worship** as men bow down to **their own efforts** of tying dying fruit to dead limbs

ALL religions, denominations & spiritual beliefs are dark forests of dead trees with dead branches full of stinking rotting fruit

EVERY GROUP or CONGREGATION or ASSEMBLY keeping LAWS, RULES & TRADITIONS by tying rotting fruits to their dead limbs using their own efforts of self control & will power.

Isa. 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

The BEST PERSON who ever lived outside the Body of Christ before God is still unclean, filthy, decaying, dying.....

WHAT do you do with a decaying dead body?

Col. 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Raised up WITH HIM as in a NEW Body raised with a New Spirit of Life making a LIVING BRANCH to bear fruit.

HOW?

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us..... Why is ANY Law needed? How does the Spirit bring fruit?

next week