

The Business of Bearing Fruit
Galatians 6:1-10

Introduction: We are in the month of resolutions/breaking bad habits etc., and creating new ones.

1. God's design is for an externally focused culture (service)

- a. We are called to be there for one another, but in the process, we must be careful what we allow ourselves to get accustomed to (6:1-5)
- b. God's design for His community of followers acts as spiritual guardrails to protect us from bearing the fruit of the flesh. (6:6)
- c. Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Driven by the pursuit of eternal purpose and individual growth (externally driven) (i.e. Gal 5:22-23)

2. Fruit is the byproduct of our lifestyle. (Gal 6:6-8)

- a. In spite of liberty, Christians are still subject to the law of reaping and sowing.
- b. The presence of conviction is an early warning from the Holy Spirit that fruit of the flesh has been planted. (Hebrews 12:3-11)
- c. "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of spring the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23
- d. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt 12:33-37)

3. The world's design is for an internally focused culture (pleasure)

- a. Fruit of the flesh: Driven by the pursuit of pleasure and personal indulgence. (Internally focused) (i.e Gal 5:19-21)
- b. *Everyone is an addict. We are addicted to our flesh. That addiction manifests itself in different ways in all of us, but it is there.*
 - i. Examples: Drugs and alcohol, gambling, control, exercise, pride, success, money, food, etc.
- c. *Understanding that my natural desire is to be drawn to my flesh, most of the time, I will know what the Holy Spirit wants because it will be the exact opposite of my first desire. (Gal 5:17-18)*
- d. For a believer, disregarding the laws of bearing fruit can lead to a miserable, bitter life.
MacArthur Quote (MacArthur Galatians Commentary p.189)

4. Bearing Godly fruit requires us to be intentional

- a. Fruit takes time and we have to be diligent to plant, cultivate, and be ready to put it on display to encourage each other (6:9-10)
- b. We are called to look for opportunities to put the fruit of the Holy Spirit on display for people to see (6:10)
- c. **Practical ways to create a healthy culture**
 - i. **Disciplined daily quiet time**
 - ii. **Plan ahead for your morning**
 - iii. **Changing your music selection**
 - iv. **Spend the drive to work in prayer**
 - v. **Call a friend on the way to work**