



PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

WORKSHOP: CHOOSING GOOD FRUIT

by Brenda Marlin

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: As leaders, we have the opportunity to draw others to Christ through the fruit of the Spirit, which is a process that He develops within us. Being intentional about asking God to develop good fruit within us helps us to become leaders that are more fruitful. Knowing and understanding the characteristics of fruitfulness will aid in identifying fruitful leaders.

1. GOOD AND BAD FRUIT

John 15:1-5 describes the process of developing spiritual fruit:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:1-5; NASB)

WHOLE GROUP ACTIVITY: List the good and bad fruit found in Galatians 5:16-26:

BAD FRUIT	GOOD FRUIT



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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: Work in a group of 3-4. Discuss the difference between a life characterized by good fruit versus a life characterized by bad fruit. Can there be a combination of the two? Your group will be given the opportunity to share a meaningful part of your discussion.

II. THE RESULTS OF A FRUITFUL LIFE

There are ways to identify true fruit of the Spirit within us and within others based on some key identifiers within one's character. What do you think Matthew Henry meant when he wrote:

"From a vine we look for grapes, and from a Christian we look for a Christian temper, disposition, and life."¹

What are some things "Christian temper, disposition, and life" might include?

ACTIVITY: In your same group of 3-4:

- Briefly describe a time when you sat under someone's leadership who bore good fruit. How did it make you feel?
- Discuss a time when you experienced leadership by someone who did not display spiritual fruit. How did it make you feel?

NOTE: It is important that we do not reveal specific incidents or include names. The network of PWOC is broad and connections are many. It is best to be general and nondescript about the situations that are shared. Focus on how it felt when something was not working correctly.

¹ Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on John 15:1-8



APPLY IT TO LIFE:

Prayer of commitment:

Lord God, I acknowledge that You are sovereign in all things concerning my life. You have a plan for me to bear much fruit for Your glory. I praise You for the many ways You work in my life to create fruitfulness within me and within the body of Christ. I ask You to develop the good fruit of the Spirit within me, so that I can attract others to You. I commit myself to a lifetime of learning how to walk fully in the Spirit and deny my flesh. Show me how to cooperate with You as You do the pruning in my life. Help me to remain in You and to be patient with the process as You complete this work in me. In Jesus' mighty name I pray, Amen.



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