

What Is the Church Meant to Be?

by Mark Emery

Part 4: The Spirit Produces Fruit, Not Just Information

Thank you for continuing this inquiry into what Scripture says the Church is meant to be.

So far, we have considered the Church as a living body, a people called to action, and a life marked by freedom rather than fear.

This naturally leads us to another important question:

What should the Christian life actually produce?

Is the goal simply to know more?

Or is the evidence of faith something deeper—something visible?

Scripture gives us a clear answer.

In **Galatians 5:22–23**, Paul writes:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Notice what Paul points to.

He does not say the primary evidence of the Spirit is the accumulation of information.

He points to fruit.

Fruit that is visible.

Fruit that can be felt by others.

Fruit that changes the atmosphere around us.

A person may know many verses, many doctrines, and many teachings—and those things are good—but knowledge alone is not the same thing as transformation.

Jesus Himself gives us this image in **John 15:5**:

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.”

This is not a call merely to intellectual understanding.

It is a call to abiding.

Remaining in Christ, and walking with Him.

Allowing His life to flow through ours.

And when that happens, fruit begins to appear.

Not forced or manufactured, but naturally, as evidence of a life rooted in Him.

Paul says something beautiful in **2 Corinthians 3:18**:

“We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.”

The Christian life is meant to be transformative.

We should not remain unchanged year after year. Praise the Lord, right?

The Spirit is at work shaping us into the likeness of Christ.

This means growth is not measured only by what we know, but by what our lives increasingly reflect.

Do people encounter:

- more love
- more patience
- more gentleness

- more peace
- more self-control

when they encounter us?

That is the question. After all, we are in the world but not of the world.

A Church shaped by the Spirit's fruit begins to look different.

It becomes a place where:

- truth is lived, not merely spoken
- grace is visible
- people are changed by the presence of Christ

This is the evidence of living faith.

Takeaway:

The Spirit does more than inform the mind—He transforms our lives. The evidence of faith is not merely what we know, but the fruit that begins to grow in us and through us as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Questions to ponder:

Do I think of myself as being in constant transformation toward the likeness of Christ, perhaps in the same way I might look for and celebrate the results of diet and exercise on my health and fitness? (Remember, the enemy would love us to think we're living the same days/weeks over and over and are stuck being "who we are" ...not true!)

What areas of my life could use a "fruit basket delivery" of more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

Coming next...

◆ **PART 5 — Fellowship Is Not Optional**