



The Fruit of Oneness with Christ

Leading from hiddenness...

What is the tendency of the flesh of man? Mixture! There is that which Christ has produced, and there is a whole lot of that which man's flesh has produced for God. That which the flesh has produced has taken the light off of Christ and put it on man, has been more about man than about Christ, and has formed a distorted image of Christ throughout history.

Men seek significance, personal glory, self importance, security, legacy, and the applause of man. Why? Because they have misunderstood the place, value, and glory of Oneness with Christ and His purposes. This explains much of Jesus' concerns with the traditions of the elders and the doctrines of men. This explains the crusades and the inquisition. This explains the schisms of every imaginable shape and style in the body of Christ. This explains every single Church movement and the final stage of every revival which has become a fad of man instead of a focus on Jesus. It explains the negative stigma the Church has formed in the minds of the lost throughout time.

Man simply will not live without this strong sense of purpose and destiny, and when his flesh has not been broken by the cross he will be certain that the way to achieve this place of spiritual nirvana is through great self effort disguised as being "all for Jesus."

In seeking self glory, man forfeits his truest hope for exquisite joy. His unwillingness to remain hidden in Christ, resulting in his vain attempts to be seen, acknowledged, needed and valued, has caused him to miss that which he most needs and longs for - **Oneness with Christ**.

Saints, it is oneness we want. No experience this side of heaven compares to it. No amount of money, fame, power, or applause comes even close to comparing with the supreme joy of oneness. And nothing is more opposed to your sense of self preservation than the call to oneness.

Listen to the following verses:

John 14:20 At that day *you will know* that **I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I in you.**

Jesus tells us "we will know" what this means, but how well do we "know" this? Jesus is in the Father, and we are in Jesus, and Jesus is in us...how well do we "know" what this means...are we experiencing the reality of it? What in our lives reveals the reality of this? How do we experience the reality of this versus that which misses this place? Jesus talked of this as being the most important thing that could happen to a human. This is to define us. It is our truest destiny.

John 15:2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away: and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, **that it may bring forth more fruit.**

I am convinced it is the misunderstanding of this one verse that has done more to distort the call to ministry, throughout history, than any other statement of Scripture! Men read this verse, pull up their boot straps, salute the cross, and march off to produce something that they can present to Christ as the evidence of their serious love and labors on His behalf. Nothing could be further from the meaning of this verse than that kind of determination, but because it interfaces so well with the belief system of the flesh, and its longing for security and significance, it is very understandable that this is how men have understood it.

All too often the following phrase has defined the motivation for our labors: "Only one life, twil soon be past... only what's done for Christ will last." Sounds good to the flesh... "I can do something for Christ! I'm a somebody for God! My efforts matter! When I get to heaven, and all I've done for Christ is paraded before all the rest of mankind, my labors will really shine! But someone will say, "Aren't we supposed to serve the Lord?" What is the meaning of being a worker in the Kingdom, if it doesn't mean "work for the Lord?"

Note the following verse's explanation of how this fruitfulness is to take place, and how it stands in complete opposition to the will of the flesh, and an incorrect notion of service.

John 15:4 **Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit **Of itself**, except it abide in the vine; **no more can you, except you abide in me.**

Here is the key to fruitfulness. It isn't that Jesus is looking for just "fruit." He is looking for a very specific kind of fruit. It is a fruit borne in union with Himself. It is a fruit HE produces through us, not that which we produce on His behalf. Oneness alone can produce this fruit. All other fruit, no matter how religious it looks, no matter how many places we have stuck Jesus certification stickers over it, no matter how good it looks, is fruit that will not pass heaven's inspection.

If the fruit that is produced is not produced through oneness, through complete agreement with His Spirit, then it is bad fruit, even if it was produced with good intentions. Brethren, this all too often has defined Church history.

What produces this kind of fruit? The next verse tells us.

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches: **He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.**

Abiding in Him! Everything we do must pass the "Abiding Test." No matter how simple this sounds or looks, it isn't. It is a process that will slay every self willed idea, intention, desire, and motivation within you. It has to, otherwise self will find a way to glorify itself while asking Jesus to share His glory with it too, and this simply won't pass the heavenly standard.

Abiding in Him means, what gets produced is produced from a place of such hiddenness in Him, that absolutely no self glory will result from it or be tolerated by the vessel through whom Christ reveals His fruit.

If hiddenness was good enough for Jesus, do you think it will be any less effective in your life?

Here's how Jesus describes it for Himself:

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Ah you say...Jesus and I did that in the early stages of my ministry. I'm good with that. I went to the cross, let it deal with my motives, and now I'm ready to serve Him. Umm, no, not likely! It almost never truly gets completed in the early phases of ministry. He plants the concept, waters it through a few seasoned spiritual writers, let's your spirit know it is the way, and then turns you loose to try to disprove it. Later in life, usually much later, you will be brought back around to it again, only to realize, hmm, no, I never really let it have its way in me did I Lord?

The following verses describe oneness as well as any place in Scripture:

John 17:21 That they **all may be one**; as **you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us**: that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 And the glory which you gave me I have given them; that **they may be one, even as we are one**: 23 **I in them, and you in me, that they may be made perfect in one**; and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them, as you have loved me.

The only way for the world to ever know that the Father actually sent Jesus, and Jesus is Who He said He was, is for His followers to minister from this place, and not their own place or motivation, and from this reveal the real Jesus. Otherwise we just reveal a religious version of ourselves, with all its hypocrisy, and the world can spot that a mile away.

The Church has written and discussed much of "oneness or unity" in the body, but there is way too little said or written about oneness with Christ. There is absolutely no hope for oneness/unity in the body of Christ, until the body is one with Him! How are we going to come into agreement with one another if we haven't first come into agreement with Him? The intellect and best efforts of the flesh will never take us to the place that union with Christ will produce.

We will remain divided into denominations, buildings, sects, schisms, ideologies, organizations, mission agencies, Church businesses, strategies, agendas, and the rule of man until we squarely face our call to oneness with Christ and the implications of this. As long as we miss this place the world will wait, watching from the sidelines, skeptical that Jesus even exists, and if He does exist that He really has any answers for their poor miserable lives.

Let me say it another way. What men seek for themselves, in joining themselves to Christ, and trying to produce fruit for Him, while enhancing their security and significance, will never come close to the intensity of spiritual satisfaction that comes through union with Christ. The thrill of awareness that Jesus has and is Himself moving in through us to perform His good pleasure, in a way that expresses itself through the uniqueness of each individual believer's own personality, vocabulary, temperament, and personhood, so far exceeds that which the will of man has characteristically experienced and manifested, that there is no real comparison.

What men long for, and strive after, through their own self efforts...that indescribable something of deep joy and satisfaction, will never be experienced through self's agenda, stamped with a Jesus rubber stamp. It can only come through union with Him.

Why do you think we see so much moral corruption in ministry leaders? They're searching desperately for something that can only come through death to selfish ambitions and a life

derived through oneness with Him. The flesh leads them down one path of self realization after another, burning them out all along the way, and destroying the image of Jesus' Church in the process.

There is only one place any of us are going to find a power that doesn't corrupt, an influence that doesn't turn into control, a joy that doesn't morph into sinful addictions, and that is in union with Jesus.

So how do we arrive at this place of oneness?

The Way of Hiddenness

I'd love to tell you that the pathway to hiddenness is through simple commitment to it, but it isn't. It just isn't. I believe, if you will interview 1000 men and women who have experienced Jesus baptizing them into hiddenness and true oneness it looks something like the following:

1. They gave it their best for a number of years, believing they could produce an eternal fruit while serving their needs for security and significance.
2. They kept bumping into revelatory stumbling stones, which were attempting to gain their attention for a different approach to their walk with Christ, but which they interpreted as interference to accomplishing the will of God, and so they stepped over or around them.
3. The Lord allowed some sufferings to come their way, so as to break their self confidence and will, and gain their attention to new revelation of His approach to life.
4. With each succeeding trial and affliction their hearts softened more, and eventually, after sufficient sorrows and a growing suspicion they were doing their Christian walk their way, He began to significantly break through to them and draw them into a long and prolonged season of breaking, revealing, breaking, and revealing.
5. Somewhere in the process Jesus gets through to them, and says "You know what?...it really has been more about you than about Me, in all of your ministry." The awareness of this hits like a ton of bricks, and cascades over the spirit in wave after wave of revelation and sadness.
6. Now I'm going to take you aside for a long season of refining, redefining, pruning, changing and dying. You are to stay hidden for as long as I want you hidden. You are not to do anything for Me unless I've made it clearer to you than at any previous time in your life that it is ME asking for activity. I'm going to wean you away from needing to be needed by men, and towards needing ME more than anything else. I'm going to teach you to follow My lead instead of getting ahead of Me and attempting to get Me to sign on with your thing. I'm going to teach you that your significance is not in building great things for Me, but in letting Me do through you whatever I want done, no matter how small it looks to you. Just in case you don't get what I'm talking about, let me spell it out for you...it is going to kill you! You are going to feel useless, washed up, permanently shelved, and it will begin to unfold right at the point in your life where you believe, and others have confirmed, that you write better than you've ever written, speak more authoritatively than you've ever spoken, are the most broken and humble that you've ever been, and are at the prime of your life. Did you get that? It will make no sense to you. You will feel like you are wasting your life, and your days and nights

are going to feel like you are continually bearing about in your body an inward burning fever that is going to destroy you. Can you identify with this?

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The ONLY hope for Jesus' Church is ONENESS with Him! Period! Apart from this we'll continue to repeat the errors of Church history, and stumble over our flesh all the way to the pearly gates. Oneness will slay you and raise Christ up within you. Oneness will reveal Jesus through you, rather than you trying to reveal Jesus. Oneness will leave you so totally lacking in self confidence, so empty of self trust that you can do ANYTHING for God, so wary of self will, so longing for just Him to be seen, that anyone who attempts to get you to do their thing, or your thing, will be met with a broken yet resolute - NO!

When you will no longer yield to your own need to be needed, and when you will no longer let others goad you into activity not led by the Spirit, and when you are finally content with doing what feels like you're doing nothing, then maybe, just maybe, you are about to be picked up, dusted off, and used by the Master. We'll see! If such men and women arise in the earth again the Church of Jesus Christ will begin to be all glorious within, because it will be His glory, not man's glory, that will be seen.

How did this look in Jesus' life?

John 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" 15 Perceiving then that **they were about to come and take him by force to make him king**, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Jesus had the same choice with these folks He faced with the devil in the wilderness. Would he accept their request to align with their desires for Him and receive of their glory, or would He hold steady with oneness with the Father and His purposes, and disappoint the people?

The answer was clear for Jesus. Notice how He addresses the issue of receiving man's glory instead of God's. It perfectly illustrates that place of oneness He lived in:

John 5:41 **I do not receive glory from people.** 42 But I know that **you do not have the love of God within you.** 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you **believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?** (Another way to say this is: you do not seek God's glory alone.)

Jesus indicates love for God will settle these matters. If we love God we will not be controlled by people's desires for our lives, nor even their opinions of us. We will not seek the glory of man over the glory of God. We will not allow people to pull us out of oneness so that we can validate ourselves in opposition to waiting for God's direction and will.

Those near Jesus, who experienced His many statements of aloofness from man's will for His life, and unity of agreement with the Father, were not happy with Him. He wouldn't do their will. He wouldn't do it their way.

Let me say something to you. If you are a person who "just has to be liked," then oneness with God will be all the more difficult for you, because many of God's plans for your life will oppose the plans of man for your life, and if in those moments of challenge of alignment,

you choose the route of man pleasing, you will miss the joy of oneness and be drawn towards a destroying force. Love for God will hold you steady. It will guide your decisions.

This is not saying that a hateful or disdainful attitude towards people is the answer. An arrogant mean spirited attitude is not necessary to doing the will of God. But people will not be pleased with you at times, if you remain in oneness with the Father. It is inevitable.

Jesus said:

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

The world He refers to here, is not just those who have completely rejected Jesus. It represents even those in His Church, who have not been weaned from worldly ways and thinking, and thus, when faced with the glory of God they oppose it because it doesn't look like anything they've ever seen before. Just like Israel opposed the glory of God at Mt. Sinai. They had the supreme opportunity to commune directly with God, but instead they chose Moses as their representative, their CEO, and stood afar off. How sad!

Throughout Jesus' ministry it became clear He was connected to another realm, took His orders from another authority, and while He loved His own to the end, His love for the Father and His love for mankind kept Him stabilized in His oneness with God and His service for the Kingdom.

We are called to exactly the same thing. We won't be as consistent as He was, and our lives will reflect the chaos caused by mixture, but we are called to return to the place of oneness again and again. As we do so our lives will become fruitful with a fruit that will remain, and we will experience the purpose for our creation. We were made for God, to know Him, think like Him, feel like Him, dream like Him, decide like Him, and love Him and love like Him.

John describes the relationship between abiding, love, and obedience:

1John 3:23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and **love one another**, just as he has commanded us. 24 **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.**

There are two ways to understand this passage - 1) If you keep His commandments you will abide in Him, or 2) If you abide in Him you will keep His commandments.

I'm not certain we can ever fully separate these two, but it seems most likely that it must be the Spirit who draws us into oneness with the Lord, by His love, and from that the grace to obey Him is given, such that the fruit of abiding is obedience. The Spirit is the agent of confirming where we are abiding...either in the flesh or in Christ.

Let me point you to another manifestation of Jesus' abiding in the Father. We see it in John 5 once again:

John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but **only what he sees the Father doing**. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and **shows him all that he himself is doing**. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

What is He talking about here? I submit to you that I believe He is talking about the very nature of prophecy. I believe Jesus is telling us, that as He abides in oneness with the

Father, He prophetically sees what the Father is going to do through Him, before Jesus actually does it, and having prophetically seen what the Father is going to do through Him He knows what the Father is doing and is going to do, and so he does what He prophetically sees.

In exactly the same manner we are to live our lives and speak.

This is the very nature of prophecy. A “pre-seeing” of that which God is going to do. Only in this case it is a specialized aspect of it, because it is not only prophetically seeing what God is going to do, it is seeing what He is going to do through you, and then out of agreement with Him, and by the power of His Spirit, and flowing out of love, doing that which you have seen Him do in and through you before you have done it. In this way you know exactly what to say and do because you have prophetically seen it already in the Father. The experience of this is sometimes only a split second seeing and then immediately doing. Other times it is a seeing and years down the road doing. But, nothing of this requires personal gumption and self willed determination to do something for God. It requires active submission to the power of the Spirit to accomplish the will of God in and through our lives.

From this we see the power of oneness, the significance of oneness, and the joy of oneness. How much better to be one with Him, and then live our lives from a place so close to Him that we literally see His plan for, and in and through, our lives, and then out into the world. This is what kept Jesus from doing the will of the people instead of the will of the Father. Because they weren’t abiding in the Father they had no idea, other than their own will, what God was wanting to do and about to do. They would have short changed themselves by choosing their own “sight,” and have talked Messiah out of going to the cross and saving their souls, just so they could experience some short term blessings of Him taking His throne in their nation prematurely. Every time God has tried to take a man to his own cross, and help him be crucified on it, and instead he has chosen the way of self glory, he has not only missed God’s best for his life, but he has released the spirit of witchcraft into the earth...the will of man treated as if it were the will of God.

We are called to oneness...a prophetic seeing from the very heart of God, as we abide in oneness with Him. One of the things that make obedience to God as difficult as it is, is because our flesh casts a prophetic vision for us, of what living for the flesh will look like, and we go for it. When we learn to see the Lord’s vision for obedience’s outcomes in our life, through oneness with Him, we’ll more consistently walk in obedience. We need to learn to let Him show us what obedience will prophetically look like in our lives as it manifests in our choices and behavior. When we begin to “see it,” before we have even been obedient, then obedience will be much easier. He is able to help us see the formations of blessing and righteousness that will result from obedience, before we have even been obedient. We are trained for even greater prophetic manifestations, through our obedience to the smaller acts of obedience in oneness with Him.

This is exactly what Abraham did, and what made him the great example of faith. He saw Sarah holding Isaac in her arms, and millions of people coming forth through Isaac, before Sarah was even pregnant. We can live our entire lives this way, and we will live it this way, as we learn to value oneness with Him, and pay attention to the little steps of training in oneness along the way.

The chart below physically illustrates the tensions of oneness:

