

Why People Don't Bear Fruit

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I. Introduction.

A. We have been chosen that we might bear fruit. (John 15)

1. Character. (Galatians 5:22-23)

2. Influence. (Proverbs 11:30)

B. There are two reasons for barrenness in a person's life.

II. Sin. (James 1:13)

A. How sin develops. (Joshua 7:10-12)

1. The eye.

2. The heart.

3. The act.

4. The cover up. (Genesis 3:8)

B. Sin is accursed because it destroys Christ-likeness in a person. (Isaiah 53)

III. Lack of an adequate root system. (Psalm 1)

A. If something did not pan out it may mean that we were not ready. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

B. It is not the sun that destroys us—it is the lack of an adequate root system. (Mark 4:5-6)

C. Roots. (John 15)

1. The word of God. (John 8:31-32)

2. Prayer. (John 15:7, Luke 5:15-16)

IV. Suggestions for priorities.

A. One's personal relationship with Jesus. (Philippians 3:7)

B. The spiritual well being of the family. (I Timothy 3:4, Genesis 18:17-19)

C. The Great Commission, which is the vocation of the Christian. (Matthew 28:18-20)

D. Vocation. (Acts 18:1-3, I John 2:17)

V. Set minimum goals that can be reached—be realistic.

Application questions:

1. What areas of sin may be hindering your fruit?

2. What does it mean to have roots?

3. Which priority do you think is most disharmonious in your own life? How can you practically tackle this problem? Explain.
