

# **Being Fruitful in the Next Generation**

## *Skip Gray*

### I. Introduction.

A. Texts: Matthew 13, John 12.

B. It costs to bear fruit for the next generation.

C. We want to be able to say to Christ that we finished the work he gave us to do as he did to the Father. (John 17:4)

### II. There are steps in the divine life cycle.

A. The seed. We are many things in Christ, but God sees us as a seed.

B. The farmer.

1. Jesus is the farmer who plants the seed.

2. The sower knows best where to plant the seed.

3. The seed does not know where best to be planted.

a. Seeds do not have rights.

b. We must be available to God.

C. The field is the world.

### III. The seed must die in order to bear fruit. (John 12:24)

A. The seed does have an option to die here or abide alone.

B. The seed that dies denies itself.

C. To die means to relinquish control of life.

D. Life is the sum total of all one's relationships, activities, and possessions.

F. We must be open-handed with all that we have.

**Application questions:**

1. How does the seed illustration help us to see that we are not in control of our ministry?

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2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

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3. What areas might God be calling you to be more open handed with? Explain.

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