

Built By the Lord

By Edwin Crozier
Adapted by Ron Vick

Chapter 7

Our Spiritual Goal: Bearing Fruit to God's Glory

- I. A Family of Disciples
 - A. What is our goal with our children?
 - 1. Get them baptized?
 - 2. The answer is not just to get our kids baptized, but on having a family of disciples.
 - B. John 15:8 → ...bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
 - C. Luke 13:6-9 → The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree
 - 1. Its purpose was to bear fruit.
 - 2. It was not fulfilling its purpose. Therefore, it was to be cut down. It was given another opportunity and time to bear fruit.
- II. To God be the Glory
 - A. Psalms 115:1 – ¹Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!
 - 1. We seek to develop a family of disciples. This must be our priority.
 - 2. We do not seek our own glory through business, sports, fame, finances, or whatever else. We seek the glory of God.
 - B. How much time do we devote to:
 - 1. Reading the Bible vs. watching TV together?
 - 2. Singing praises as opposed to playing sports together?
 - 3. We get them to all the sports practices and school activities but can't quite get them to worship the Lord and to Bible classes.
 - C. Psalm 115:12-15 – Blessing comes when our goal is to glorify God.
- III. Sowing in the Family Garden
 - A. Matthew 13:3-9 – The Parable of the Sower
 - 1. Typically, we use this parable to discuss evangelism. Rightly so!
 - 2. We can also apply it to our family life.
 - 3. This parable is about being a fruit bearing Christian.
 - 4. It is therefore, about how to glorify the Father and prove ourselves His disciples.
 - B. Matthew 13:18-23 – The seed on the roadside was eaten by the birds. This represents those who hear the word, but have it removed by the evil one.
 - 1. We don't want this kind of soil in the hearts of our family.
 - 2. We need to remove as much of the influence of the evil one as possible. → television, radio, movies, magazines, books, and Internet.
 - 3. Granted, we cannot force anyone to believe anything... even our family.
 - C. Proverbs 22:6

- D. The seed on the rocky places represents the one who has heard and accepted, but is unable to put our many roots.
 - 1. Things look good for a while but when the sun rises and the heat increases, their faith is fried.
 - 2. Far too many of our children enter the heat of the sun under the withering gaze of a humanist professor or the caustic taunts of immoral peers.
 - 3. We need to remove the rocks if we expect spirituality to grow.
 - 4. Psalms 119:9-11 – ...I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
 - 5. Matt, 5:27-30
 - a. Hyperbole or literal? We spend more time thinking about this than why it was said. No sinful pleasure is worth eternal punishment.
...for that matter, no thing that is neither good nor bad (like extracurricular activities) is worth eternal punishment.
 - b. If “good things” are crowding out the word of God in your heart... get rid of them.
- E. The seed sown among the weeds represents those who hear the rod and believe it. However, in time, the worries, pleasures, and the riches of the world choke out the word.
 - 1. This is a matter of priorities.
 - 2. Our families can see what are our priorities.
 - 3. Philippians 4:6 – What are we anxious about? That is our priorities
- F. The good soil is the one soil that actually bears fruit.
 - 1. Thirtyfold, Sixty-fold, a hundred-fold.
 - 2. This is the soil that glorifies God and is proven to be Jesus’ disciples.

IV. God Glorifying Fruit

- A. Galatians 5:22-23 → The Christian Virtues
- B. Note that the fruit of the Spirit is NOT genius, agility, speed, or good looks.
- C. Are parents doing a disservice to their kids by not teaching them how to hit a baseball?
- D. Sports are not a bad thing.
 - 1. The author of the book played sports from age six through college.
 - 2. Before we spend time working on a fastball, let’s make sure we are developing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
 - 3. Let’s work on our family garden of bearing spiritual fruits and thereby proving to be Christ’s disciples. THEN we are accomplishing God’s goal for our family.

V. Today’s Response

- A. Pick one of the fruits of the spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.
- B. How can your family purposefully work on that particular fruit of the next week?
- C. Are there any rocks or weeds still in your personal and/or family garden? How can you and your family remove them together?