

WHAT CHRIST WANTS FOR HIS CHURCH
PART 3-“...BEING FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK”
COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

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Introduction:

In the last two messages from this passage we acknowledged that each of us have desires and goals for our Church. However, we’ve said that it is not **our** desires and goals that we should be concerned with, it is what **Christ wants!** Christ’s desires for His Church may be just a bit different than our desires!

We asked the question “What Is Christ’s Desire For The Church?”

He used the Apostle Paul To Tell Us:

*CHRIST DESIRES THAT THE CHURCH BE FILLED WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL. (VS 9)*

*CHRIST DESIRES THAT THE CHURCH WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD.
(VS 10)*

Now we want to see the third desire of Christ for His Church:

**CHRIST DESIRES THAT HIS CHURCH BE FRUITFUL IN EVERY
GOOD WORK. (VS 10)**

I. CHRIST DESIRES THAT THE CHURCH BE FRUITFUL!

The word “**fruitful**” = means “*to be fertile; very productive;
producing fruit in abundance.*”

When God created man, *Genesis 1:28*–“*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.***”

When Noah and his family came off the ark, *Genesis 9:1*–“*And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.***”

When the LORD called Abraham, He told him in *Genesis 17:6*–“*And I will make thee **exceeding fruitful**, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.*”

When the LORD changed Jacob’s name to Israel, He told him in *Genesis 35:11*–“*And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: **be fruitful and multiply**; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins”*

When the LORD God does a work in the life of an individual, a family, or a **Church**, His desires that work to be **fruitful!**

II. THE “WHAT” OR “WHERE” OF FRUITFULNESS IS “IN EVERY GOOD WORK!” *Let’s break that down...*

A. In.

“**In**” means we’re to be **actively involved!**

There will be **no fruitfulness** unless we are **actively involved!**

B. Every.

1. “**Every**” means **there is more than one good work.**

2. “**Every**” also means that **there is not a good work that should be lacking in the Church.**

C. Good.

1. “**Good**” is the opposite of bad!

2. “**Good**” is **better than that which is neutral!**
(i.e. some thing that is neither good nor bad)
There are a lot of things that in and of themselves are not good or bad, but we waste a lot of time doing them.

3. For something to be “**good,**” it has to be **of God.**

D. Work.

The word “**work**” = means “*to work or toil.*”

(i.e. It is something that takes effort on our part!)

Many of us are willing for the **Church** to get involved as long as it isn’t going to cost **us** anything. **We don’t want it to:**

1. **Take any more of our time.**

2. **Take any more of our effort.**

3. **Take any more of our money.**

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E. What Are Some Examples Of “Fruit”:

1. We Are To Walk In The Spirit So That Our Lives Exhibit The Fruit Of The Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23–“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

We only truly exhibit the fruit of the Spirit when we walk in the Spirit!

2. We Are To Be Filled With The Fruits Of Righteousness.

Philippians 1:11–“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

God is only impressed by the righteousness of His dear Son! He doesn’t want OUR righteousness to shine forth in our lives, but rather the righteousness of Jesus!

The fruits of righteousness in our life comes from Christ being active in our life! (*Galatians 2:20*)

3. We Are To Work That Which Is Well-Pleasing To Christ. (*Hebrews 13:20-21*)

a. We Are To Witness To Others Of Christ. (*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8*)

b. We Are To Pray For Others. *James 5:16*–“Confess your faults one to another, and **pray one for another**, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

c. We Are To Love Our Neighbors As Ourselves. (Last Sunday evening’s message!)

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Galatians 5:14–“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

James 2:8–“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:”

Romans 13:10–“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

d. We Are To Do Unto Others As We Would Have Them Do Unto Us.

Matthew 7:12–“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

THE “WHAT” OR “WHERE” OF FRUITFULNESS IS IN EVERY GOOD WORK.

III. THE “HOW” OF FRUITFULNESS COMES FROM:

A Abiding In Christ. (*John 15:4-8*)

B. Growing In Christ. (*2 Peter 1:3-9*)

C. Grace From Christ. (*2 Corinthians 9:8*)

When we live the Christ life by grace through faith, our lives remain **fruitful**. (*Colossians 2:6*–“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.”)

IV. THE “WHY” OF FRUITFULNESS IS TWOFOLD:

A. Because It Brings Glory To God!

John 15:8–“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

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Matthew 5:16–“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

B. Because We Have Been Ordained To It!

John 15:16–“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

Conclusion

What is Christ’s desire for His Church?

1. *CHRIST DESIRES THAT HIS CHURCH BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL. (VS 9)*
2. *CHRIST DESIRES THAT HIS CHURCH WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD. (VS 10)*
3. *CHRIST DESIRES THAT HIS CHURCH BE FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK. (VS 10)*

Are you fruitful? For God’s Church to be fruitful, it takes each member doing their part!

Are you “**in**” the work?

Are you born again? You cannot be “*fruitful*” if you are dead in trespasses and sin!