

December 06, 2009

Fruitfulness.

John 15:16, "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."

"Choose" (election) – to choose for oneself. Christ chose you for Himself. Your choosing of Christ in time is preceded by Christ's choosing you in eternity. Note the contrast : "you did not ... but I [did]."

One clear purpose of your eternal election in Christ unto salvation is holy living. (Eph.1:4). That is one aspect of fruit-bearing.

The context of Jn.15 is evangelism & missions. The primary focus is bearing fruit via evangelism & missions. The fruit is new converts to Christ. The fruit is harvested by means of presenting the gospel to sinners.

Christ chose you and "appointed" you (set you apart) for the specific purpose of bearing the fruit of new converts to Christ. In other words, in this context, the specific purpose of your eternal election in Christ unto salvation is sharing the gospel with others with the goal of making new converts for Christ.

D.A Carson noted that the focus on evangelism & missions is truly central. This is Christ's mandate to us. As a church we must never become a comfortable, exclusivistic huddle.

Note the prayer promise attached. How about asking, first & foremost, that the Father would give to Christ through you the fruit of new converts? We are approaching two Lord's days that will be dedicated to evangelism. Are you asking the Father for fruit?