

LET'S LIVE!

WITH ABUNDANCE

THE GLORY
AND THE JOY
OF BEARING MUCH FRUIT



Living the fruit-bearing, God-honoring, joy-filled life of abundance that Jesus died to provide starts with...

abiding in Christ.

Fundamental to abiding in Christ is carving out and fiercely guarding a regular rhythm of renewal in our lives.



A THEOLOGICAL DISTINCTION

Although abiding in Christ is a choice we make, it first was a choice God made.

"You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

JOHN 15:16

**THE MYSTICAL UNION OF
THE BELIEVER WITH CHRIST**

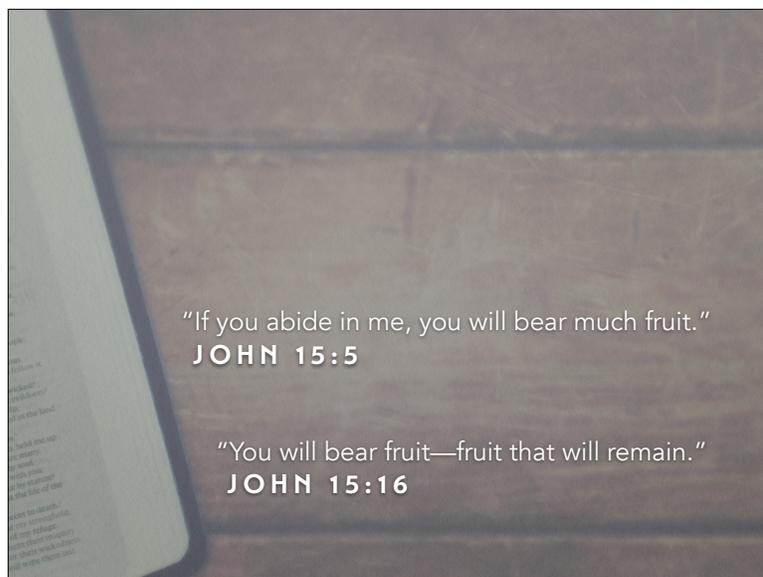
This union—the *unio mystica*—is effected mysteriously and supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, whereby believers, individually and corporately, are fundamentally connected with the Lord Jesus Christ for time and eternity.



**AN EXPECTED
OUTCOME**

There will be fruit
from our union with Christ.

"If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear fruit."
JOHN 15:5



"If you abide in me, you will bear much fruit."
JOHN 15:5

"You will bear fruit—fruit that will remain."
JOHN 15:16

— AN EXPECTED OUTCOME —

- 1 Copious fruitfulness is Christ's expectation for every believer: *"much fruit."* v5
- 2 Copious fruitfulness is God-pleasing worship: *"this is to my Father's glory."* v8a
- 3 Copious fruitfulness is compelling proof of Christian discipleship: *"showing yourselves to be my disciples."* v8b
- 4 Copious fruitfulness is a sure pathway to personal joy: *"I've told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."* v11

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION

"We exist to glorify God and to fully enjoy him forever."

God is most glorified in us when we are most joyful in him—and we are most joyful in him when we are bringing him the most glory. God's greatest glory is when we live in this world as fruit-bearing believers.



DEFINING THE FRUIT

We must bear fruit that is internal: **our character.**

"Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
GALATIANS 5:22-23



DEFINING THE FRUIT

We must bear fruit that is external: **our conduct.**

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down your life for your friends."

JOHN 15:12-14



DEFINING THE FRUIT

We must bear fruit that is eternal: **our converts.**

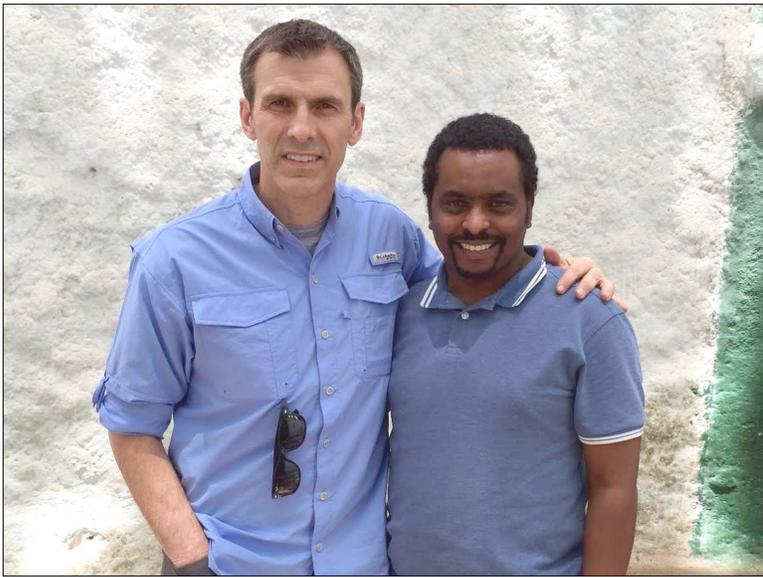
"And you must testify about me."

JOHN 15:27

The greatest fruit, the greatest glory, the greatest love and the greatest joy is simply this:

**Using the influence of our lives—
our words, our actions, our
financial investments—
to expand God's family.**







Matures in 18 years.

1 baby per pregnancy.

Is fertile 4 time a year.

Gestation time is 22 months.

Family can grow from 2 to 3 in three years



Matures in 4 months.

Averages 7 babies.

Is almost always fertile.

Gestation time is 1 month.

Family can multiply to 476 million in 3 years.







A RABBIT STRATEGY

give Financially resourcing church planting is the best investment you can make both now and for all eternity.

go Be open to the possibility that God may be calling you to use your gifts to launch/help with a neighbor-centric church.

live There is no more compelling witness than a fruit-bearing, God-centric, joyful believer.

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