

TO BE LIKE JESUS - PART 3B

WHY GOD WANTS US TO BE LIKE JESUS (FRUITFULNESS, MULTIPLICATION, AND DOMINION MANDATE)

In the previous section we explained that God conforming us to Christ fulfills the original Genesis mandate 👉:

Gen 1:26-28 NIV

²⁶ Then God said, “**Let Us make mankind in OUR IMAGE, in OUR LIKENESS**, so that they may **RULE** ...
over all the creatures ...”

²⁷ So God created mankind in His own Image... ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “**Be FRUITFUL and INCREASE IN NUMBER**; fill the earth and subdue it. **RULE** ... over every living creature ...”

In that section, we saw how Jesus Christ restored us to the Image of God ([Eph 4:12-15](#), [22-24](#)). Now we'll explore the final parts of fruitfulness, multiplication, and ruling (dominion).

We ended the last post noting Christ's ultimatum to the unfruitful ([John 15:1-6](#)). So what does

fruitfulness mean here, and how are we made fruitful through Christ, without Whom we can do NOTHING 🙅 ?

In this context, fruitfulness refers to producing God's righteous virtues. This was God's expectation for mankind; but after Adam's fall, humanity tended toward wickedness ([Gen 6:5-6](#), [Isaiah 5:1-4](#), *[7](#)*, [Luke 6:43-45](#)). In other words, humanity couldn't bear God's kind of fruit, nor truly meet His righteous standards.

Now that we understand the meaning of fruitfulness in this context, we can understand how Christ-likeness makes us fruitful. It is twofold: the Holy Spirit produces the fruit, and we must OBEDIENTLY follow Christ's commands.

Now that we've seen the meaning of fruitfulness, we can better understand how Christ-likeness makes us fruitful. Fruitfulness in Christ is twofold: primarily the Holy Spirit produces the fruit, and then secondly, we must OBEDIENTLY follow Christ's commands.

[Gal 5:22-23](#), [25 NIV](#)

²² But **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is Love**, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³

gentleness and self-control. **Against such things there is no law.**

...

²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Rom 7:4-6 NIV

⁴ So... you also died to the law through the Body of Christ, that you might belong to Another, to Him Who was raised from the dead, **IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD.**⁵ For when we were in the realm of the flesh, ... **we bore fruit for death.** ⁶ But now ... we have been released from the law **SO THAT WE SERVE IN THE NEW WAY OF THE SPIRIT** ...

Col 1:9-10 NIV

⁹ ... we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God **to fill you with the knowledge of His will THROUGH all the wisdom and understanding THAT THE SPIRIT GIVES,** ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and **PLEASE HIM IN EVERY WAY: BEARING FRUIT IN EVERY GOOD WORK,** growing in the knowledge of God,

Eph 5:8-10, 17-18 NIV

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (**for THE FRUIT OF THE LIGHT consists in ALL goodness, RIGHTEOUSNESS and TRUTH**) ¹⁰ and **FIND OUT WHAT PLEASES THE LORD.**

...

¹⁷ ... **UNDERSTAND WHAT THE LORD'S WILL IS.** ¹⁸ Do NOT get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT,**

So the Genesis mandate of FRUITFULNESS is fulfilled ONLY through the Holy Spirit ([Rom 8:5-9](#)), Whom we receive as we OBEDIENTLY submit to Christ ([Acts 5:32](#), [John 16:13-15](#), [Matt 28:19-20](#)).

How about multiplying? Did Jesus give a new mandate like the one in Genesis? Spiritually speaking, yes. This is captured in the Great Commission. I'll explain shortly.

God originally wanted mankind's multiplication through marriage to produce Godly offspring ([Mal 2:15](#) **AMPC**). But due to Adam's fall, all his descendants were born into sin ([Psa 51:5](#), [Rom 5:19](#)).

However, Jesus Christ came and made it possible for people to be born again by the Spirit ([John 3:3-8](#)). This rebirth produced children of God, thus restoring God's intention of having Godly offspring.

After enabling the new birth, Jesus commanded ALL His followers to bring others into this new birth—this is the Great Commission ([Matt 28:19-20](#)). By this Commission of making OBEDIENT disciples TO Christ, we fulfill the original multiplication mandate.

And Christ did not omit the final part of the Genesis mandate: i.e. ruling. Those who choose to belong to Him will reign with Him forever ([2 Tim 2:12](#), [Rev 5:10](#), [22:5](#)).

If you think about it, the End of Days would actually mark the true beginning; God would finally have what He intended from creation. At that time He will make a new Heaven and Earth ([Rev 21:1-7](#)); we will bear Christ's Glorified Body ([1 John 3:2](#), [Phil 3:20-21](#), [1 Cor 15:44](#), [49-53](#)); we will be fully righteous and fruitful with no devil to deceive us ([Rev 20:10](#)); and God will reap full multiplication from the one "Seed," Jesus ([John 12:23-24](#), [32](#), [Rev 5:9](#)). And we will reign with Him forever.

This wraps up the series. Hope you were blessed. Feel free to remark or ask questions in the comment section. And again, please get the Free book "*Early Steps in Christianity*", which covers this and much more in eight chapters of Biblically grounded teachings.

Thanks for the privilege of your time. God bless and Shalom!

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