



Why doesn't this tree produce apples?

Because peach trees don't produce apples!

Obvious, isn't it? Of course apple trees produce apples. In fact, only a fool would advertise a tree producing peaches as an apple tree. Yet it is common to find people who do that very thing regarding their spiritual production.

Jesus taught that we are a lot like trees in that our real spiritual condition can be determined by the fruit we produce (Matt. 7:16-20). Now we must ask, "What kind of fruit should I be producing if I am really a Christian?"

Since our whole understanding of Christianity comes from the Bible, let's allow it to tell us what our fruit should look like.

Christian fruit is characterized by . . .



change

There will be a noticeable difference between the way a person lived before he trusted Christ and the way he lives after he has trusted Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we learn that a Christian is altogether a new creation. The old condition has passed away and everything has become new and fresh.

Can you point out the change in your manner of living?



conformity

By nature we disdain conforming to standards, yet in reality everyone conforms to some standard. A Christian conforms to a standard far different from the non-Christian's standard.

Romans 8:29 tells us that God has determined that the Christian will be molded into the standard of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:15 says that the Christian should be growing up to be like Christ in every aspect.

Are you conforming to the standard of Jesus' person?



concern

A Christian will have a genuine concern for the principles found in the Bible. In John 14:15 Jesus said that obedience to His words is proof that we love Him. That same truth is found in 1 John 2:3-5, which states that loving God's word and obeying its teaching are proof that a person is really a Christian.

Do you love and obey God's teachings?



compassion

A Christian is known by his compassion for others. 1 John 4:7 teaches that a person is revealed to be a Christian because he genuinely loves other Christians.

Do you love Christians?



confidence

A Christian has assurance of a right relationship with God. 1 John 5:13 tells us that this assurance comes from the truth found in the Bible. 1 John 4:13 teaches that we have this assurance because the Holy Spirit of God is given to us.

Do you have confidence that you are rightly related to God?

Judging from the character of your fruit, what are you?