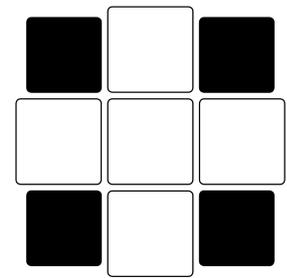


# Good and Bad Fruit

Scripture: **Luke 6:43-45**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, November 19, 2017



**REDEEMER**  
FELLOWSHIP

## Overview

Most people in our society tend to think that man is basically good. Also, people prefer to be judged by their internal nature rather than their external actions. At the same time, the world sends the message that it's "what you do" that determines who you are. However, the Bible (and Jesus) reverses this notion and proclaims that it's "who you are" that determines what you do. As we learn from the Luke 6 passage, different kinds of trees produce edible or inedible fruit, and the nature of the tree determines the type of fruit it will bear. In other words, we need a change in our nature; we need a new identity. Even our best "good works" stem from a sinful heart, thus we are unable to please God and unable to bear spiritual fruit unless our heart is regenerated (born again). Just as each tree is recognized by its own fruit, so our actions should reflect our new nature, since **spiritual fruit is born in the heart and cultivated by faith.**

## Corroborating Texts

Romans 3:10-12; Romans 5:7-8; Galatians 5:19-23; John 8:15; Luke 3:7-9; Psalm 1:1-6; Colossians 2:19; Matthew 4:4

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think most of society tends to think that man is basically good? What are some *consequences* of having a flawed view of human nature? [It leads to false ideologies and false worldviews; it leads to utopian visions for man and society such as Marxism and Communism and secular-progressivism, none of which square with reality; and it leads to a false sense of man's own goodness, which blinds him of his urgent need for repentance and salvation.]
2. Even without Christ, people can still be "good" relative to other people, and certainly relative to other "really bad" people. So when we're talking to unbelievers about their own sense of goodness, how can we help them understand what their sense of goodness really means? [What society means by good is "civil" good, e.g. law-abiding, being a good neighbor, being charitable, not causing harm to anyone, etc. This is because we're all made in God's image and thus capable of doing good works, but not works that can earn God's favor or lead to salvation.]
3. Why do we often judge others by appearances? What does this say about our own heart?
4. Why do we sometimes cultivate "conduct" in our kids instead of character? What are some practical ways we can change this mindset?
5. In order to bear spiritual fruit we need to cultivate the heart, which should be manifested in the fruits of the Spirit (albeit imperfectly). In what areas of your heart is sin choking out the fruit?