

God is glorified when Christians bear much fruit (15:8), therefore, Jesus warned His disciples to avoid those things that are dangerous to a fruitful Christian life.

Key thought: You must avoid those things that are dangerous to living a fruitful Christian life.

I. NO INTIMACY

You were saved not merely for eternal life, but you were saved to have an intimate, loving relationship with God. Intimacy is “necessary” or essential for us to live a fruitful Christian life. It is dangerous to allow “distractions” to keep us from “abiding” in Christ.

Take away:

- Identify and remove unnecessary distractions to your intimacy with Jesus.
- Order and prioritize your life with the goal of cultivating intimacy with Jesus.

II. NO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

God is at work in the life of every believer to equip, mature, and empower them to live a fruitful Christian life. God will often use “pruning” to mature, equip, strengthen, and empower a believer. It is dangerous when a Christian does not respond appropriately to God’s pruning process.

- A. God is always at work in every season of your life.
- B. God uses different tools (instruments) to cultivate growth and fruitfulness in your life.
 1. Suffering/trials
 2. Obedience/disobedience
 3. Faith opportunities
 4. Blessings

Take away:

- Identify areas of needed spiritual growth in your life.
- Submit and respond in obedience to God’s ongoing process of “pruning” for greater fruitfulness.