

What is the fruit of repentance?

Fruits¹ which prove that a righteous man has repented (Acts 2:37, 38) are listed in the apostle Paul's epistle to the Galatians. They are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Ga 5:19–26).

Conversely, wicked fruits² from unregenerate sinners are: immorality, idolatry, hatred, discord, selfish ambition, envy, drunkenness, etc. (Ga 5:19–21).

Jesus said, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Mt 7:20.

The apostle John explained that the way one knows for himself that he has indeed has passed from death to life is that he has love for the brethren (1 Jn 3:14).

John wrote:

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. 1 Jn 4:19–21

One who does not love his brother does not love God.

The Lord gave two commandments—love God and love your neighbor (Mt 22:37-39). Jesus said, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Mt 22:40.

A man naturally loves himself; but, when he loves the Lord, he is then able to love his brother, as well (Ro 8:14). When he lives according to his new life in in Christ (Ga 5:16a), his law becomes higher—not lower—than the Ten Commandments. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7) elevated the law to the nth degree.

One who names the name of Christ should be growing into his likeness.³ Dr. James McGinley said, "I'm not going to judge you, but I am a fruit inspector."

¹ The fruit of the Spirit (5:22–26).

² The fruit of the flesh (5:19–21).

³ Spiritual fruitfulness depends on: abiding in Christ (John 15:2–8), yielding to God (Rom. 6:13–23), Christian effort (2 Pet. 1:5–11), absence of reprobated (Matt. 21:19). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 244). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.