



One Bad Apple
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Preview

Have you ever reached into a bag of apples only to find one was rotting and drawing gnats? Did you want to eat any that were left in the bag even if they weren't rotten yet? Why?

Praise

What is your favorite fruit? (*allow for discussion*)

Parable

I am thankful God blessed us with fruit to eat. Fruit is sweet, and it's good for you. But one bad apple can ruin a whole bag. The "fruit" or attitude a person displays identifies what kind of person they are.

Matthew 12:33: "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."

If a person is loving, giving, gentle, and peaceful, it is said of them that they are a good person. But if a person is bitter, angry, often backbiting or gossiping, it is said of them that they are a "bad apple."

Present

Your attitudes, actions, and words display what is going on in your heart.

Matthew 12:34: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." What's in your heart, what you allow your mind to dwell on, and the feelings you entertain will begin to be manifest in your speech.

If you are full of the Holy Ghost, you will produce the fruit of the Spirit. People not only will see and hear good things coming from you but they will also FEEL it. They'll be able to feel love and peace emanating from you as you allow the Holy Ghost to work in you and through you.



Matthew 12:35: “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”

James 3:11: “Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?”

What is in your heart and mind will be what you produce in your actions, deeds, and speech. If a person is full of bitterness or anger, they will not be able to hide it long. It's something that's brewing inside them and will eventually be made manifest through the words they speak and the things they do.

Pactice

What are things we can do to help us become and stay a ‘good apple’?

Pray

Ask God to cultivate and grow the fruit of the Spirit in your heart and prune out the works of the flesh that would make you a bad apple.

Plus

Play the game ‘One Bad Apple.’ It is played just like Hot Potato except you are using an apple. You do not want to be left holding the apple when time is up or you will be out. Continue the game until you have a winner. Their prize could be an apple as a reminder of the lesson.