

Is the Fruit Real or Counterfeit?

"Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates of the city!" Proverbs 31:31 Amplified Version



Number 62 in the series "God's Virtuous Woman"

Tested over many years, the Proverbs 31 lady's fruit proved to be real. In a world of counterfeit, her fruit proved to be genuine. The fruit of her life was evident in her godly character: how she loved, honored and served her husband; how she raised her children; how she handled money; how she exercised godly wisdom and worked hard; how she dressed; how she served the poor and needy; and how she cared for her home. Most of all it was proved by her reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord. The fruit of her life proved to be genuine in times of joy and sorrow.

We live in a world full of counterfeit. We have counterfeit gold, diamonds, furs, paintings, wood, etc. Much of it looks so good that it's hard to tell if it's real or counterfeit. I've often seen fruit that looked real, but it proved to be fake, to be counterfeit. Many people prefer to buy counterfeit. It's cheaper, and you don't have to work hard and save for a long time to buy it. Many people try to do the same with their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. They don't want to pay the price of daily discipline and prayer, reading and obeying the Bible. They don't want the hard work of study, repentance and spiritual warfare. They don't want the way of the cross or to deny themselves daily, pick up their cross and follow Jesus. That's too painful. They want a quick fix.

Matthew chapter 7:15-20 tells us to beware of false prophets who come to us in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. It

tells us we will know them by their fruit. God warns us in this scripture to beware of counterfeits, which are false prophets. They will look like sheep and act like sheep, but inwardly in their hearts, souls and private lives, they are ravenous wolves. God is telling us that in time if we discern, watch and listen carefully, we will see that their fruit is counterfeit, that they want to destroy God's sheep.

If we want Chinese food, we go to a Chinese restaurant. If we want Mexican food, we go to a Mexican restaurant. If we want Italian food, we go to an Italian restaurant. The devil's favorite food is lamb, so he goes to the church to devour the sheep.

2 Corinthians 11:13 (NASB) warns us of "...false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ." But Satan describes himself as an angel of light, and his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

Beloved, listen to me. Only as we stay close to Jesus, daily reading and obeying God's Word, attend a solid Bible-believing church, and stay in fellowship with mature believers will God's amazing grace protect us from counterfeit. But we daily need to be in the Word and to walk close to Jesus Christ or we will be deceived. Check the fruit in people's lives.

— Janice McBride

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