

JOHN 15:1-17

- Recap: last week we looked at vs.4, discussing that abiding is a long term commitment and abiding means to care for the fruit in our lives
- This week we study vs.5-6

vs5 “I am the vine, **you are the branches**. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**”

- Constant reminder of our dependance on God, will ensure humility, the perfect condition for growth:

JAMES 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

- Pray about everything, even the things you know you can do. Ask for God’s enablement, to do them in a godly way.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17 pray without ceasing,

- God is also saying that He’s going to nothing, without us! WOW. What a challenge
- Fruit will never be visible anywhere else, other than on the branches of the vine. It’s impossible!
- Our fruit must be visible to the natural and spiritual world:

MATTHEW 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

EPHESIANS 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be **made known by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places

- Can fruit ever be visible anywhere else on a vine, besides on the branches??

ROMANS 10:14-15 “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”

vs6 “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is **withered**; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

- This is not a rebuke but as loving a warning that there can be.
- Remember the image that Jesus is creating here: we are part of Him. Who of us would want part of our own bodies to perish away?

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to use a vine, to illustrate this teaching and what common characteristics are there in a vine and our relationship with Him?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says we can’t do anything without Him? Is this strictly true? Explain your answer
3. What purpose does throwing away withered branches serve? How does this “throwing away” relate to God’s grace?
4. How can we avoid fruit withering in our lives?