

THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

CHAPTER 15:1-8

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Who is a Real Christian?” – Part 1

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

TOPICAL SUBJECT SEARCH KEYWORDS:

Discipleship, Fellowship, Prayer

INTRODUCTION

to the text

John 15:1-8

**They were a young couple, and deeply
in love.**

Having been separated by war and time, they were about to be reunited again. Months of letter writing and prayers, now the young man was home from war – he places the phone call... “Sweetheart – it’s me. I knew that all these days apart, the dangers of war, the perils at sea, enemy ships and attack submarines, time and distance and demons of war could never keep us apart, I always knew that I would see you again.

And now I’m home, finally, together again, and if it doesn’t rain –
I’ll see you at about eight!

**Such devotion challenged by the
chance of rain**

The church in the world today is plagued by many-a-fair-weather followers of
Jesus Christ

But The True Disciple Knows –
Jesus and His Teachings is All There is to This Life

WHAT A CONTRAST FROM THE MAN WHO WOULD
LEAVE JESUS

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“Bow to Buddhism”

John 6:66-69

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

I Believe The World is Asking...

Who is a Real Christian?

Remembering The Theme of John’s Gospel Message

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

...On the night of His Arrest, He gives them His **Word** and the Promise of the **Holy Spirit**

Who is a Real Christian?

THE MEANING OF HIS TEACHING HERE IS

TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE MINDS OF HIS FOLLOWERS THAT THERE ARE
FOUR KEY FACTORS TO THEIR CHRISTIAN SUCCESS

- 1.) One who is *inseparable* from God
- 2.) One who knows the *Priority* of Relationship
- 3.) One who is *bound* to The Unity of Faith
- 4.) One who now enjoys the *Security* of God

Who is a Real Christian?

- 1.) One who is *inseparable* from God vv. 1-3

"I am the **true vine**, and My Father is the **vinedresser**. 2 "Every **branch** in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 14:31

Arise, let us go from here.

The Walk from the Upper Room to Gethsemane

Who is a Real Christian?

- a.) Consider the *genealogy* of the Holy Spirit v.1-2a

"I am the **true vine**, and My Father is the **vinedresser**.
...2 "Every **branch**

There are Three in the Relationship

“The True Vine”

(Is Jesus Himself - A shocking revelation for those Jewish followers to hear)

The Temple Gates were adorned with golden vines & grapes

“The Vinedresser”

(Is the Father - the owner/operator of the vineyard)

“Every Branch”

(Are any Disciples - Those in Relation to the True Vine and Vinedresser)

2 Corinthians 5:19
for **God** (the vinedresser) was in **Christ** (the true vine) reconciling the **world** (the branches) to Himself,

the genealogy of the Holy Spirit

Who is a Real Christian?

One who is inseparable from God

b.) Consider the Heart of God Toward us

v.2

Every **branch** in **Me** that does not bear fruit He **(#1)** takes away;
and every branch that bears fruit **(#2)** He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

There is a Great Debate as to the Meaning of this Verse

(#1) takes away...
that it may bear more fruit.?

- * takes away grk 142 airo (ah'-ee-ro);
to remove. to lift up, to take up or away from where it has gone to; figuratively, to raise up or to suspend. Also translated: to carry, or hold up

On a Winery, the vinedresser (the owner/operator)

will survey the crop in the field to determine each vine and its branches. If he sees a branch that should be producing but isn't he will lift up the branch and secure it. Then he will take water and begin to wash the branch with the water by hand which encourages the branch to reconnect with the vine which stimulates new growth

The Vinedresser – The Father

will encourage a branch that has become unfruitful, to have it tap back into the vine and it's strength.

But Now

Consider the Heart of God Toward us

**(#2) He prunes...
*that it may bear more fruit.***

- * Prunes grk 2508 kathairo (kath-ah'-ee-ro);
to cleanse, to cut back; to remove a portion

In Any Beautiful Garden, There's Pruning Going On

There are seasons to pruning

What is Beautiful Now – Began With Painful Pruning

Psalm 119:67

Before I was afflicted (pruned) I went astray,
but now I keep Your word.

Psalm 119:71

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may
learn Your statutes.

Every Real Christian Must Get Pruned

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations (PRUNINGS) enter the kingdom of God."

Romans 5:3-4

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, (PRUNING) knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 12:12

rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation (PRUNING), continuing steadfastly in prayer;

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, (PRUNING), that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

His Example Faithful (washing) Care

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that Jesus might sanctify and cleanse the church with the washing of water by the word, 27 that Jesus might present the church to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

The Thrust Here is Fruit Bearing

Who is a Real Christian?

One who is inseparable from God

c.) *Consider the Source of our salvation*

v.3

"You are **already clean**
because of the word which I have **spoken** to you.

"You are **already clean**"

- * already grk 2235 ede (ay'-day);
by a definite time. To have been done, by this time now
- * Clean grk 2513 katharos (kath-ar-os');
To be made literally or figuratively pure. To be judged clear,
pure and clean. Without impurity

- **That Which was Once Unclean – *is now clean***
- **That Which was Once Impure – *is now pure***
- **That Which was Once Unclear – *is now clear***

Who is a Real Christian?

2.) One who knows the *Priority of Relationship* vv. 4-5

"Abide in **Me**, and I in **you**. As **the branch** cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in **the vine**, neither can you, unless you abide in **Me**. 5 "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.

Who is a Real Christian?

One who knows the *Priority of Relationship*

a.) He Knows *where he lives spiritually* v.4a

"Abide in **Me**, and I in **you**.

b.) He Knows *what he must do* v.4b

the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in **the vine**, neither can you, unless you abide in **Me**.

c.) He Knows *that he can Rejoice at all times* v.5

"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.

I love the way this sounds to me;

" I am **the vine**, you are **the branches** "

it sounds just like an elementary school teacher toward her class

"I am the vine,"

That means that I AM your source of all power, strength,
and resource which flows from ME, The Vine

you are the branches.

"That means that You cannot have any power, strength,
and resource because branches aren't designed for that.
Branches are what hold the fruit that flows from the vine – that's ME" says Jesus

*He can Rejoice at all times
Because he can WATCH the fruit come forth*

STOP TRYING TO BE THE VINE

" Everything Depends on Me – Everybody
Needs Me"

"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.

Who is a Real Christian?

3.) One who is *bound* to The Unity of Faith v.v. 6

"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.

a.) The Christian is *United* to Christ by Faith v.6

"If anyone does not abide in Me,

But the Christian Will Abide

will there be times, perhaps even years of spiritual failure?

What do we learn from God's relationship to Israel or to a prodigal son?

**This "Being United to Jesus by Faith"
IS THE MOST POWERFUL, GOD-ORDAINED LEASH**

Psalm 138:7-8

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; you will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me. The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Philippians 1:6

be confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

The Recovery of a Wounded Branch

Galatians 6:1-2

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

you who are spiritual

Who is a Real Christian?

One who is bound to The Unity of Faith

b.) The Christian is Grafted to Christ in Faith

v.6

he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

If the Remains of a Pruned Branch is thrown
into the fire

So also are dead or unfruitful look-a-likes

This truth of being Grafted to Christ in faith
Holds us firm unto the end

- There are those who abide = get pruned
- And are Those who need to be abiding again = get lifted up
- And are Those who are like branches but are not = they get burned

Judas Iscariot

Who is a Real Christian?

4.) One who now enjoys the *Security* of God vv. 7-8

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

a.) We Enjoy His Security - it makes us *confident* v.7

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you

**The Fact Taught Here Is;
Abiding in Christ Promises Answered Prayer**

One who now enjoys the *Security of God*

b.) We Enjoy *His Work in Our Lives*

v.8

By this My Father is glorified,
that you bear much fruit;...so you will be My disciples.

Did You Notice the Maturing of the Branches

John 15:2

every branch that bears **fruit**... He prunes, that it may bear **more fruit**.

John 15:5

"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.

Self-Application

Matthew 7:16

"You will know them by their fruits. Do men

Galatians 5:18-23

When guided by the Holy Spirit, you need no longer force yourself to obey the law. 19 But when you choose to follow your own fleshly desires, your lives will produce: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except you, false doctrine, 21 envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and things displeasing to God, Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will never see the Kingdom of God. 22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce these kinds of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.

WHAT IS YOUR WORLD LIKE?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you are disqualified.

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 13:35

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Who is a Real Christian?

End of study