

THE KINGS ROYAL SUBJECTS

"Abiding in Christ"

John 15:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. **John 15:1-10**
2. **Jesus spoke these words in the Upper Room just before His Crucifixion.**
3. **Jn 15:1-2**
4. **In these verses we see Jesus using familiar language to get His point across.**
 - a) The disciples knew all about **VINES and FRUIT**. (Horticulture)
 - b) The question was, **"How were they to produce the fruit that God desired?"**
5. **Verses 4-5**
6. **Fruit has 3 characteristics:**
 - a) **First** - Fruit always bears the character of the tree of which it is part.
 - 1) Pear trees don't bear apples.
 - b) **Second** - Fruit is always available
 - c) **Third** - Fruit exists for the **benefit of others**.
 - 1) Fruit trees don't eat fruit.
 - 2) Therefore, kingdom disciples make disciples, producing fruit in the lives of others. **Vs 8**
7. **There may be times when believers stop bearing fruit.**
 - a) **For whatever reason.**
 - 1) **2 Timothy 4:10**
 - 2) **Colossians 4:14**
 - 3) **Philemon 23-24**
8. **In John 15 we must begin by asking some questions. (Good Hermeneutics)**
 - a) **Who** is Jesus talking to? - **The saved disciples**
 - b) **What's** Jesus talking about? - **Bearing Fruit**
 - c) **When?** - When He is gone - **Cf. 14:12-14**
 - d) **Why?** - **To bring Glory to the Father - 14:13; 15:8**
9. **John 15 is not about salvation. It's about BEARING FRUIT.**
10. **God's Desire is Intimacy with His Disciples.**
 - a) **Philippians 3**

11. **INTIMACY** - Passion is an all-consuming desire to draw close to Jesus and to know Him more fully.

I. INTIMACY IS VITAL TO FRUIT BEARING

A. THE VINE - Jesus

1. Vs 1

a) *"I am the vine"*

1) This is the last of Jesus 7 **"I AM"** statements in John.

2. Cf. 14:28-31

a) *"Rise, let us go from here"*

3. *Jesus; the VINE, is the source of all spiritual fruit.*

B. THE VINEDRESSER

1. Vs 1

a) *"and My Father is the Vinedresser"*

2. *The vinedresser's job is to make sure the vine produces as much fruit as possible.*

a) He **prunes**

b) He **cultivates**

c) He **trains**

3. The Father is the one who, is in charge of the vineyard.

C. THE BRANCHES - The disciples (believers) *"The Kings Royal Subjects"*

1. *Now this is where people get messed up in their interpretation.*

a) A TEXT out of CONTEXT is a PRETEXT

2. Vs 2a

a) *"Every branch in me"*

1) **"in"** - a preposition describing location

b) *"...that does not bear fruit he takes away"*

1) Just simply means that these branches are worthless!!

3. Vs 5

a) *"you (disciples) are the branches."*

1) "you" - is stated no less than 15 times

4. Who are the branches?

a) Believers!!!!

5. Vs 3

a) *"clean"* - means saved

b) Cf. 13:6-10

1) *"You are clean"*

c) *"because of the word"*

6. Vs 5

a) *"that does not bear fruit"*

1) Not false converts.

2) Not believers losing their salvation.

3) **These are believers who are worthless.**

7. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

a) 2 Corinthians 5:10

8. *"The Security of the Believer."*

a) *Ephesians 2:8-9*

b) *Ephesians 4:30*

c) *2 Corinthians 13:5*

II. REMAINING IN THE VINE IS KEY TO INTIMACY

- WOW Vs 7

a) *"ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you"*

A. WHERE PRAYERS GET ANSWERED

1. **THAT IS HUGE:** Authority in prayer.... *is the practical manifestation of the Kings authority.*

a) **WOW!!!!** Heaven obligates itself to respond to believers who are the **Kings Royal Subjects** (His disciples) when they invoke God's presence in the affairs of this life.

2. **LISTEN UP:** It should not surprise a believer to see the supernatural operating in the natural!!!!

B. OUR CONNECTION TO CHRIST IS THE KEY

1. *As Branches we are to Bear Fruit*, BUT the life-giving substance flows to you from the VINE.
2. Where does the **INTIMACY** come from?
 - a) It comes from "**ABIDING IN CHRIST**"
3. To ABIDE or to remain or to stay in connection.

II. HOW INTIMACY WORKS

1. **John 15:7**
 - a) *"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,"*
 - b) *"ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*
2. **THAT'S AMAZING:** Jesus says that if we abide, or remain, in Him and keep His words in us, then we can ask to be set free from an addiction, a wrong attitude, an oppressive relationship, *or anything that is contrary to His will.*
3. When you get close to Jesus as His faithful disciple, He will **amaze you by what He will do in you and through you.**
4. So, after we have received God's Word, James tells us to be *"doers of the word."*
5. **James 1:23-25**
 - a) James tells us that we should approach the scriptures like a woman looks at a mirror-checking out the details.
6. We are to take our time to **meditate on verses**, until the HOLY SPIRIT affects our souls with the transforming power of the TRUTH of God's word!!!
7. **James 1:25 WOW**
8. When we abide in God's Word and depend on the Holy Spirit, **spiritual transformation is inevitable.**
 - a) **2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

III. HANGING OUT IN THE WORD

1. *John 8:31*

a) *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples."*

2. Hanging out with the Lord in His word, it's like someone recharging their cellphone at the end of the day.

CONCLUSION:

1. By identifying with Christ through an INTIMATE, ABIDING RELATIONSHIP

a) of FELLOWSHIPPING in His Sufferings,

b) Conforming to His CHARACTER, and ABIDING IN HIS WORDS,

c) you can live as one of the KINGS ROYAL SUBJECTS.

2. NOT FOR JUST **ONE WEEK**, OR FOR A **FEW MONTHS**, BUT FOR **ALWAYS**.