

I. Gods word exhorts us to go on to maturity

- A. Many believe that Gods word tells us _____ we ought to do, but feel frustrated because they don't know _____ to do it.
- B. God does not give us commands without helping us to see how we are to put them in the practice.

II. When describing what was true concerning the disciples, Jesus also teaches them how they are to respond.

- A. John 15:1-11
- B. In Jesus' teaching, he uses the metaphor of the _____, from the Old Testament.
 - 1. In the OT the vine is _____, the people of God (cf Psalm 80:8)
 - 2. Jesus now applies the imagery, of the vine, to Himself (John 15:1)
 - 3. And now we, the people of God "...are the branches..." (John 15:5)

III. The vitality of our spiritual life relies on and is _____ by our _____ with Jesus Christ.**IV. _____ with Christ**

- A. John 15:5 - "...you are the branches."
 - 1. "branches" - Greek '*Klema*' - means "a shoot" or "a young twig"
- B. Jesus declares that he is the _____ of God
 - 1. Israel failed to be the faithful the vine of God (cf. Psalm 80:8-18; Isaiah 5:2; Ezekiel 19:10-14)
- C. The Apostle _____ also teaches about our union with Christ (cf Rom 6:1-14)
 - 1. We are united to Christ in his _____ (Rom. 6:10) and _____ (Rom 6:2-4)
 - 2. Sin no longer has _____ over us (cf. Rom 6:14)

V. The Father's _____

A. Jesus said, "...my Father is the vinedresser" (cf John 15:1)

1. Greek literally = "worker of the ground"

B. Jesus highlights one particular aspect of the vinedressers activity (cf John 15:2)

1. The verb used for _____

a) Greek word '*kathairo*' - literally = 'to cleanse'

b) John 15:3 Jesus tells his disciples that they are cleansed through his _____.

2. Pruning in the Christian life is a _____ which prevents spiritual rot and decay.

3. There are no _____ in the Christian life (cf. John 12:24)

4. In the Christian life, nothing which is cut away is wasted (cf. John 15:2)

VI. _____ in Christ

A. Jesus' _____ is: 'abide in me, and I will abide it in you' (cf John 15:4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10)

1. Living in union with him

2. Allowing his word to fill our minds and affections (cf Col 3:16)

3. Letting his word to _____ our _____ (2 Tim 3:16)

Looking Ahead:

1. What from this weeks message, stood out to you?

2. Read and discuss Psalm 80:8-18.

- Who is the vine that the Psalmist speaking of?

- What is the state of the vine?

- Read Isaiah 5:2 & Ezekiel 19:10-14. What did these Scriptures tell us about the vine?

3. Read Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-14, & Colossians 3:1-16. What do these scriptures contribute to the conversation of abiding in Christ?

4. Is it possible to be in the vine and then as Jesus suggests be cut off (15:6)? Can a Christian be 'cut off' from Christ?

5. Can you identify a time in your life when you were pruned by God? Explain.
 - How did the experience feel?

 - Can you identify a benefit from the pruning that created better fruit in your life?

6. Reflect on your own life. How might the Lord be pruning you? What purpose might it serve to bear greater fruit in the future?

This week's scripture reading:			
Oct. 19 - Monday	Proverbs 13	Psalm 32-33	
Oct. 20 - Tuesday	Proverbs 14	Psalm 34-35	
Oct. 21 - Wednesday	Proverbs 15	Psalm 36-37	
Oct. 22 - Thursday	Proverbs 16	Psalm 38-39	
Oct. 23 - Friday	Proverbs 17	Psalm 40-41	
Oct. 24 - Saturday	Proverbs 18	Psalm 42-44	
Oct. 25 - Sunday	10:15a Worship Gathering		

When you journal remember SOAP:

- S**cripture - One verse that spoke to me. (write it out & its reference)
- O**bservation - General observations concerning my verse.
- A**pplication - What God might be saying to me, through this verse?
- P**rayers - My prayer, concerning the application of this verse (summarize it)

Please share with Pastor Jacob what God has been saying to you, teaching you, or a testimony that you may have during this season.

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ANSWER KEY:

I.

A. 'what' ... 'how'

II.

B. vine

1. Israel

III. nourished ... union

IV. Union

B. 'true vine'

C. Paul

1. death resurrection

2. dominion

V. Cultivation

B.

1. pruning"

b. word.

2. divine cleansing

3. accidents

VI. Abiding

A. command

3. influence ... will