

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### At Home in Christ

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
May 8, 2022  
Happy Mother's Day!



John 15:1-8 (NLT) "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

### What does it mean to remain in Christ & what happens when we do?

#### When we remain in Christ...

##### 1) We are pruned and purified.

v. 2 "He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you."

v. 2 AMP "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit]."

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

##### 2) We produce much fruit.

v. 5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

#### "Fruit" is Christ-like character that flows into Christ-like conduct.

Galatians 5:22 – Fruit of the Holy Spirit  
Matthew 28:18-20 – Disciples of Jesus Christ

v. 5 (AMP) "for apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing."

### 3) We see God answer our prayers.

v. 7 "But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!"

v. 7 (AMP) "If you remain in Me and **My Words** remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you."

### 4) We glorify God by proving we are true disciples.

v. 8 "When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

Jesus says in Gospels: "By their fruit you will recognize them" (Matt 7:20; Luke 6:43–44).

### Which image best represents your life? Which life do you want?

Hebrews 10:10 (NLT) "For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time."

James 4:7-10 (MSG) "So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him make himself scarce. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet."

**Big Idea: Remain at home in Christ by practicing His presence.**

### One way to practice God's presence is through S.T.A.R.

- **Stop trying to do it on your own**
- **Turn to God.** Psalm 46:10 (ESV) "Be still & know that I am God."
- **Appreciate Christ.** Psalm 100:4 (NLT) "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name."
- **Respond in faith and obedience.** John 15:4-5 (MSG) "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you...I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant."

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT), the New International Version (NIV), the Amplified Bible (AMP) and The Message (MSG).*



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

### At Home in Christ

#3 of 11 - May 8, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at yielding to the Holy Spirit asking 2 questions: Where do you need to experience the Love of God? Where do you need to yield to the Holy Spirit? How did it go with your action step? Where have you seen God working?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read John 15:1-8. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What metaphors does Jesus use and why? What questions come up about this passage? How many times do you observe the word "remain"? Why is this important?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in these passages for us and what does this tell us about our relationship with Christ? What are the implications for those who want to follow Jesus and for our fruitfulness?
- 6) What does Galatians 5:22 and Matthew 28:18-20 tell us about fruitfulness as Christians?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What does it look like for you to "remain at home in Christ as you practice His presence"?
- 8) Take time this week to practice S.T.A.R. and be prepared to share with your IC how that goes.
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

### At Home in Christ

#3 of 11 - May 8, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at yielding to the Holy Spirit asking 2 questions: Where do you need to experience the Love of God? Where do you need to yield to the Holy Spirit? How did it go with your action step? Where have you seen God working?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read John 15:1-8. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What metaphors does Jesus use and why? What questions come up about this passage? How many times do you observe the word "remain"? Why is this important?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in these passages for us and what does this tell us about our relationship with Christ? What are the implications for those who want to follow Jesus and for our fruitfulness?
- 6) What does Galatians 5:22 and Matthew 28:18-20 tell us about fruitfulness as Christians?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What does it look like for you to "remain at home in Christ as you practice His presence"?
- 8) Take time this week to practice S.T.A.R. and be prepared to share with your IC how that goes.
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?