

PRESENCE

September 8, 2019

I. CONNECTED TO JESUS

Exodus 33:12 Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’”

A. God has given us a responsibility.

B. God has given us an identity.

1 Corinthians 8:3 But whoever loves God is known by God.

Exodus 33:13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know You and continue to find favor with You. Remember that this nation is your people.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Psalms 149:4 For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

C. When we face difficult responsibilities, we need divine relationship.

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- We remain in Jesus when we stay connected to Jesus.
- We remain in Jesus when we stay connected to His Word.
- We remain in Jesus when we stay connected to His people.

D. To be fruitful is to become more like Jesus.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Isaiah 5:1-2 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it

with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

- We must be careful that we do not have the appearance of external fruit when we are internally fruitless.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

- The fruit is as good as the vine that produces it.
- The skill of the gardener determines the quality of the fruit.

John 15:2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

- What is fruitless is worthless.
- What is fruitful must be careful.

II. WHAT KEEPS US FROM BEING CONNECTED?

A. Sin disconnects us.

B. Pride disconnects us.

C. Busyness disconnects us.

D. Our enemy disconnects us.

III. WHAT IS FRUITFUL MAY BE PAINFUL.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

A. Growth leads to change.

B. Change leads to loss.

C. Loss leads to pain.

D. Growth = Pain

Exodus 33:14 The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

IV. GOD'S FACE IS WITH US.

Psalms 4:6 Many, Lord, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Let the light of your face shine on us.

A. Rest is found in God’s presence.

Exodus 33:15 Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.”

John 15:4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

- **We must be committed to experiencing the presence of God in our lives.**

Exodus 33:16 “How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

B. We need God’s presence.

- **We find our victory in His presence.**
- **We find our identity in His presence.**

Exodus 33:17 And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

Matthew 28:20 And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

- **Good fruit is a natural byproduct of being connected to the True Vine.**