



Stay Connected to the Vine

By Terry Kountz on October 3, 2022

TODAY'S READING: John 15

Continuing His parting words to His friends, Jesus explains that the way to stay connected to God is by following His example. He also warns that they will be hated and misunderstood.

Pruning is the process of cutting limbs from a plant to keep it healthy and productive. If there are branches that are not producing any fruit, they will be cut off completely. As we follow Jesus, we also require pruning in order to grow and change.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are all fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). These characteristics are evident in people who are connected to Jesus, the vine.

What others see is a reflection of what is going on inside of us. As a follower of Jesus, others should see fruit in your life. If you are not seeing fruit in your life, maybe it is time to connect with Jesus. Get connected to the source that will give you abundant life and produce that fruit in you.

If you are in a season of pruning, it is because you are connected to Jesus. The difficulty you are going through may be an act of kindness on God's part. He loves you and he is shaping you into more than you are now. You are growing, you are changing, and Jesus is making you look more like Himself. Jesus is not content with letting you stay the way you are — He wants more for you. He wants the absolute best for your life! 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Jesus cares for you, and although the process may be painful and uncomfortable, He is not okay with letting you stay where you are when something better is waiting. Jesus will always work on you because He is concerned for you and loves you.

The life of Jesus flows through every Christian. Apart from His life, we can accomplish nothing for God; we can do nothing to please God. But because of His life, we now have the ability to deny sin and live for His glory!

PRAYER: Lord, help me to be more like You. Help me stay connected to You. Help me identify sin in my life and do away with it. Prune me to make me more like You!

TOMORROW'S READING: John 16

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