

Upper Room – Part 8 The Vine and the Branches John 15:1-17

Upper Room Review:

1. Jesus taught of the necessity of His departure and what that would bring them. John 13:31-38
2. Jesus taught the fact of another wonderful Comforter in the person of the Holy Spirit would continue to lead them on earth. John 14:1-11
3. Jesus taught of the greater works they had before them. John 14:12-21
4. Jesus taught of the how God would make them effective workers and give them great peace. John 14:22-31

As Jesus continues the Upper Room discourse in John 15, there are four words that the themes maybe reduced:

I. Fruit-Bearing – John 15:1-8 The main point to this parable is “the necessity of vital union between Christ and the disciple looking to fruit-bearing.” Shepherd p. 553 This is our way of giving God glory and our main duty of life.

“I am the _____ vine, and my Father is the husbandman (_____). Every branch _____ me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth _____ fruit. Now ye are _____ through the word which I have spoken unto you.” John 15:1-3

“true vine” –

“husbandman” –

“branch” –

“fruit” –

“taketh away” –

“purgeth it,” –.

“more fruit” –

“Now ye are clean through the word” –

In this next passage Jesus will repeat several facts He has just taught. This highlights the importance as He builds His teaching on fruit-bearing.

“_____ in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it _____ in the vine; no more can ye, except ye _____ in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that _____ in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man _____ not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye _____ in me, and my words _____ in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” John 15:4-8

“abide” –

“branch cannot bear fruit of itself” –

“much fruit” –

“for without me ye can do nothing.” –

“abide not” –

“cast into the fire” –

“The sooner we as believers discover that we are but branches, the better we will relate to the Lord, for we will know our own weakness and confess our need for His strength.” Warren Wiersbe

“ask what ye will” –

“Herein is my Father glorified,”/“that ye bear much fruit;” –

“so shall ye be my disciples” –

II. Love – John 15:9-17

“As the Father hath _____ me, so have I _____ you: continue ye in my _____. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my _____; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his _____. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye _____ one another, as I have _____ you.” John 15:9-12

“As the Father hath loved me” –

“continue ye in my love” –

“If ye keep my commandments” –

“your joy might be full” –

“Living life attached to Christ keeps us anchored and level-headed in both success and adversity. He walks beside us, and as we realize all comes from Him and all can be taken, we can proceed on our journey full of joy and eternal peace.”

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” –

Love for Christ drives _____ -> Love for unbeliever's drives _____ -> Love of believer's drives _____

Jesus has spoken on love, joy, and peace; all fruit of the Spirit! Now He will continue to explain His love to the disciples in wonderful terms. He had called them His _____; now He calls them _____.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for (Gk - on behalf of) his _____. Ye are my _____, if ye do (Gk – keep on doing”) whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you _____; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not _____ me, but I have _____ you, and ordained (_____) you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should _____: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.” John 15:13-17

“lay down his life for his friends.” -

“Ye are my friends,” -

“for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” -

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,” -

“and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:” -

“Stay close to the vine, close to your friend, because without Him you can do nothing!”

“ask of the Father in my name,” -

“This is my commandment, that ye love (Gk – “keep on loving one another) one another, as I have loved you.”

Believer’s Application:

1. Are you part of the vine or not?

Here are a few Abiding Characteristics

1. Belief in Christ as the Son of God and recognize His death for you on the cross is your only hope of eternal life. I John 4:13-16; 5:1; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:14; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 3:24-25; I Peter 1:18-19
2. Obeying the Word of God. I John 2:3-6; 3:24; 5:3-4; John 14:23; Rom. 8:10
3. A continuing to live and grow by faith. I John 2:24; Gal. 4:19; Rom. 8:16
4. Loving other believers. I John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 21; 2 John 1:5; Phil. 2:2; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:2, 15; I Peter 1:22; 4:8

2. God the Father is the Master Gardener that prunes and purges His branches with precision to promote more fruit. How does He accomplish this work? Here are a few ways He will promote fruit in the life of a believer.

1. Convict and cleanse by His Word –
2. Chastening of the Lord –
3. Strengthen your faith through difficulties –

3. Romans 6 give several considerations concerning unity of Christ (v. 5) and the successful Christian walk.

1. “Knowing this” (v.6-10) –
2. “Likewise reckon” (v.11-12) –
3. “Neither yield” (v.13-16) –
4. ‘obeyed from the heart” (v.17-21) –

The conclusion is verse 22! We now have our fruit unto holiness! If, as believers, we obey the truth of God our fruit will be right and our end eternal life!

4. Jesus saw His disciples as His friends, but in the mind of Paul, he saw himself as a servant (slave) of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 1:1; Gal. 1:10; Phil.1:1) Paul saw himself indebted to Christ for life! How do we balance the thought of “friend” and “slave”?