

Equipped 5 - Unstoppable fruitfulness – John 15:1-8

23rd May 2021

Introduction

Why do we serve as Christians? Ought? Want to?



“As part of the vine, Jesus's body, we *will* live fruitful Christian lives. Christian service will follow on from Christian discipleship as naturally as fruit grows on a vine.”

The vine, the branches and the gardener (verses 1, 2, 5)

- > Jesus: “I'm the true v____, the true Israel, God's Son” (see also Isaiah 5:1-7)
- > His followers are the true b_____
- > Jesus fills the whole v_____ - he is the vine; we are the b_____ - “mutual indwelling”
- > How we are branches: The word of God met by faith (verse 3)

> The Father: The g_____: Tends the v____ - cuts off, prunes

Do we think of ourselves in this way?

The command: Remain in Jesus by his words remaining in you (verses 4, 7, 9-10)

- > The command: Remain in the v____ (verse 4)
- > How do we remain? Continue to hear the w_____ and obey it (verse 7, 9-10)
- > In the vine: A b_____ needs the life-giving sap to continue to flow through it. The word of God is that l____-giving sap.
- > God keeps us in the v____. (verse 4, 9, 16)

Have we realised the importance of the word of God, the Bible, for our own spiritual life?

The promise: If we remain in Jesus, we will bear fruit (verses 4-5, 7, 9-10)

> What is the fruit? L____ (verse 9); obedience (verse 10); praying according to his will and receiving what we p____ for (verse 7); n____ followers; the f_____ of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); service.

> What does this look like?

The goal: The Father's glory (verse 8)

So what?

- > Newly appointed leaders: Focus on remaining in the v_____
- > Asked to perform a role: T_____ God – your fruitfulness is his work!
- > Define yourself by what you do? Focus rather on what gives the v____ life – Remaining in Jesus and his words.
- > Is there ever a place for asking “Am I bearing f_____?”

To reflect on / think about

- > What is the connection between God's word (the Bible); remaining in Jesus; and bearing fruit?
- > How can you make it a priority to “remain in Jesus and his words remaining in you” in the coming year?
- > What fruit will you pray for in yourself and others in the coming year?

> Pray about it!