

Relationship Is The Key To Fruitfulness

Hope Chapel Honolulu

John 15:1-17

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

(John 15:5, ESV)

Introduction

When attempting to teach, preach or explain the words of Christ, I always find it important to remember a handful of truths: His words are spirit and are life (Jn6:63), every word of Scripture is God-breathed (2Ti3:16), and those who teach will be judged with greater strictness (Ja3:1). It is foolish and presumptuous to think that we can improve on the words spoken by God the Son. What we should be careful to do, however, is to be careful to understand the meaning of what He said, how His original audience likely understood His words, and then, and only then, attempt to discern what our faith response should be to these Words of Christ.

1. Can we really do nothing apart from Christ? (John 15:1-5)

- a) The vital and organic relationship between Father, Son and believer.
- b) “...Apart from me you can do nothing.” (v.5)

2. Abiding in love and obedience. (John 15:6-11)

- a) Even more than faithfulness, fruitfulness is the evidence of discipleship.
- b) “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love....” (v.10)

3. Called not just to servitude but to friendship with God. (John 15:12-17)

- a) “You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (v.14)
- b) “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you....” (v.16)

Conclusion

The best way that I can explain Easter is that God so loved the world that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit came to make peace with us, reconciled and restored us to our original relationship and position at their own expense, and proved their acceptance by raising Christ from the dead and giving the Holy Spirit to everyone who believes. You and I are called to such friendship with God; that we might know Him and make Him known, that we might live with Him and enjoy Him forever!

For your prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read, prayerfully think through and discuss John 15:5 and what it means to you and I.
- 2) Discuss the conditional nature of John 15:10. What does it mean for you?
- 3) Lastly, read John 15:14-16 again and discuss God’s apparent intention and your best response.

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