



Connected and Growing

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. -John 15:4

I love listening to debates about the existence of God. Two of my favorite are Ravi Zacharias and Dennis Prager. In a recent presentation (moderated by Jeff Foxworthy, so you know it's got to be good!), they were both speaking together and answering questions. That is where I was introduced to a term I had never heard, and it has stayed with me for months.

Cut Flower Logic.

Now some of you may already know what that means. Hat's off to you. But some of you probably have the same look on your face I had on mine until Mr. Prager explained. I'll do my best to explain it to you.

If an alien from another planet came to earth and saw someone holding a bouquet of flowers, they would think, one, they are beautiful and, two, they would stay like that forever. They would not understand that without water and nourishment, these flowers will soon die. They only see in the here-and-now not down-the-road. You see cut flowers look pretty for only awhile but have no sustaining power or life.

Same with logic. Same with your spiritual life.

Many people try to live their Christian life not "connected" to the vine which is Jesus. They want to. They desire to. But they want right now just a little bit more. And they find that in the early days of sin, nothing looks that different, so they ascertain that it must not be that bad, or even a sin. But just like Cut Flower Logic, time shows that sin which separates us from Jesus begins decaying our heart toward God and our relationship with Him. See, to grow and bear fruit you must remain in the vine. You remain in the vine through your relationship with Jesus. And thank you, Lord, for grace that keeps me "in the vine."

So, are you growing? Growing in your individual relationship with Jesus and remaining in Him. Growing corporately as His Body in worship and service. And growing as we are sent into "the world" to bring others to Jesus.

If not, get connected. Not flower grows without nourishment. Maybe it's time you connected with our Lord and let Him have His way in you. That's the only way you grow.

From My Heart,

Billy