

Message from God’s Life-Giving Word

June 28, 2019

Standout – Connection

***I am** the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch **in Me** that does not bear fruit He **takes away** (lifts-up), and every branch that does bear fruit He **prunes**, that it may bear **more fruit**. John 15:1-2*

The Comparison Game

What Makes a Fruitful Life?

*Already you are **clean** because of the word that I have spoken to you. **Abide in me**, and **I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 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 15:3-5*

- The promise of a fruitful life is all about _____

*If anyone **does not abide in Me** he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. John 15:6*

Too often we get connected to the wrong things. Where have you experienced this?

*If you **abide in Me**, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be **done** for you. **By this** My Father is **glorified**, that you **bear much fruit** and so prove to be My disciples. John 15:7-8*

Called to be connected to what we need the most: _____

What are you willing to do/give-up/sacrifice to help connect people to Jesus?

Next Steps

1. Journal the following: Are you the kind of person who prefers to work alone or do you like to collaborate? Why?
2. Read John 15:1-2. How does Jesus describe His own and His Father’s role in this analogy? What do these roles say about their relationship? What happens when a branch does not fulfill this purpose? Does it seem too harsh to you? Why or why not? If God takes away people because they are not fulfilling their purpose, and even prunes ones that are in order to make them more productive, do you think it is likely God does the same to churches? If so, what might this look like?
3. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Summarize Jesus’ final command to His people before He ascended to the Father. Now read Hebrews 10:23-25. How can we live this command out together? What are some practical ways churches can help connect people to Jesus and each other? Do you participate in any of these things? Why or why not?
REMEMBER: *Your time in daily devotion and prayer is not just for your benefit. It’s also for the benefit of others. Share what God is teaching you.*