



SERMON  
NOTES

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May 5, 2019

## **“How is a Church Renewed?”**

John 15:1-8

Church renewal is not about changing the external components and elements of our lives or of our church.

Our church will only be renewed as we are renewed.

Church renewal starts with our own personal renewal

We begin our journey of personal renewal by connecting to Jesus, the true vine of life, so his life begins to flow into ours.

*15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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.*

*<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

John 15:1-8

# 1. WHY SHOULD WE BE CONNECTED TO JESUS?

## a. So we can have fellowship with God

- We were created in God's image so he could be with us

*<sup>3</sup>"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."  
Revelation 21:3*

*<sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.  
1 John 1:3*

- Jesus brings us into God's presence

## b. So we will not wither

*<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."  
John 15:5-6*

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. Psalm 19:7*

- Those not connected to Jesus will find themselves consumed by the overwhelming stresses of life.

*<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, <sup>2</sup>but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. <sup>3</sup>That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.  
Psalm 1:1-3*

*<sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. Hebrews 1:3*

- We are sustained by his word to us, both his written word as well as his ongoing words to us, which is often whispered to our inner soul and being.

### **c. So we can have victory over temptation to sin**

*<sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:14-15*

- The sinful nature in us desires sinful things
- God has given his Spirit so we can overcome temptations

*<sup>16</sup>So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Galatians 5:16*

*<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

*<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2 Peter 1:3-4*

*<sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

### **d. So we can grow in godly character**

[This will be covered in the Church Renewal Sermon on May 19, 2019]

### **e. So we can bear fruit in our lives**

*<sup>4</sup>"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. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5*

- If we are connected to the vine, fruit is inevitable,  
if we're not connected to Jesus, fruit is impossible
- We need to stay connected to Jesus, the source of life, so we are constantly receiving from him

## 2. HOW SHOULD WE BE CONNECTED TO JESUS?

### a. Throughout the day

- To stay connected means to consciously walk/live with Jesus throughout the day so we are aware of his presence with us
- We pull away, even for a few minutes, to connect/reconnect with Jesus, to listen to the Spirit's promptings
- To consciously choose to live in his presence and to go about the activities of our day without ever leaving his presence

### b. Through a weekly Sabbath

*<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29*

- It teaches us we are loved apart from what we do.  
We need to rest and rejoice in what we have, and to recognize and receive God's grace for our lives.
- There're 2 guiding principles: physical rest and spiritual rest  
– refresh our body, restore our mind, renew our soul.

### c. Through an annual retreat

A dedicated time to read, study and hear from the Lord - to spend time alone with him, to hear him, and he'll speak to us and begin to direct us in changes to our personal life, family life, church life

*<sup>4</sup>"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. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5*