

Our devotion today is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for May 9, 2021.

THE CHRISTIAN THREEFOLD RELATIONSHIP

JOHN 15:1-11 OUR RELATIONSHIP TO Christ

This is a very interesting chapter, the twenty "I's" that are in it are each a tree of life as big as God, laden with fruits of grace. I plan to break this chapter into three sermons: 1. Our relationship to Christ. 2 Our relationship to one another, 3. Our relationship to the world. Each of these divisions shows a distinct relationship that we have to Christ.

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

1. LIFE: Verse 5: **"*5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*"** The connection is the main one. Each branch is part of the life that is in the vine. By His grace we are made "partakers of the divine nature. We are drafted in to the vine, we have the Son (I John 5:11-12): **"*11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*"** Our life is dependent upon our relationship with Christ

2. ENTIRE DEPENDENCE. Verse 4: **"*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*"** The chief purpose of the branch is not merely to draw as much life from the vine and maintain its own existence, but to bring forth fruit. For this fellowship with the vine is absolutely necessary. To be fruitful unto God we must moment by moment abide in Christ, so that His Spirit and word may always abide in us.

3. CO-OPERATION: Verse 5: **"*5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*** The vine and the branches labour together in fruit-bearing. Jesus, as

the true Vine, desires that the Father should be gloried in the fruitfulness of those who, as branches, are united to Him by a loving faith, and being made the recipients of His grace and Spirit. If the good pleasure of God is to be in our lives, it will be because of His working in us both to will and to do (Phil. 3:13) **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.** An unfruitful branch is a dishonor to the vine, the fruitful bring glory to its name.

4. GREAT POSSIBILITIES: Verse 7: **⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.** Have you ever considered all the possibilities that you might have if you abide in Him? Consider Verse 4: **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.** Our union with Christ brings the things which are impossible with men within easy reach, Paul knew the power of it when he said in Philippians 4:13: **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

If we do the above we find the promise in Verses 10-11: **¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

If ye Keep my Commandments

You will abide in the Love of Christ

He kept the Father's commandment

Jesus says He has spoken these to us the His joy might remain in us, and our joy might be full.

Where is our joy today?

As we think about what is going on today in the world, it is necessary that we cleave

unto the Lord, He is the Vine and we are the branches. It is our responsibility to bear fruit for the vine.

Next Sunday: Our relationship to one another.

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