

DEPEND ON CHRIST

John 15:1-11
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INTRODUCTION: INTERPRETING METAPHORS

This passage contains one of the best known and most loved metaphors in the Bible, “I am the vine and you are the branches.”

Metaphor

a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

The wonderful thing about metaphor is that it helps us understand a profound truth quickly and deeply.

The dangerous thing about a metaphor is that we sometimes take it too literally or read something into it that the author didn't intend.

Proposition: Jesus is the vine on whom a branch must depend so that it can bear fruit.

I. DEPEND ON CHRIST, VV. 1-4

A. THE FATHER WORKS TO MAKE BRANCHES PRODUCTIVE, VV. 2, 3

1. He Removes The Fruitless,

2. He prunes the fruitful

B. THE BRANCHES DEPEND ON CHRIST FOR THEIR FRUITFULNESS, V. 4

1. Remain in Me

The word remain or abide doesn't mean "depend" in and of itself. It means to continue with, to stay beside.

2. Depend on Me

a. The meaning of dependence

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

b. The meaning of something and nothing

1 Corinthians 3:5ff.

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Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

II. THE BLESSING OF DEPENDING ON CHRIST, VV. 5, 6

A. THOSE WHO DEPEND ON CHRIST BEAR MUCH FRUIT

? What has eternal value?

1. God's Word, 1 Peter 1:25
2. The Human Soul, Ecclesiastes 12:7; Daniel 12:2, 3

Philippians 1:21-26

Philippians 1:22

But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

B. THOSE WHO DON'T DEPEND ON CHRIST DON'T BEAR FRUIT

? Why were they fruitless?

Colossians 3:5, 6

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience...

? Could this mean that fruitless people are unsaved?

III. THE BENEFITS OF BEARING FRUIT, VV. 7-11

A. ANSWERED PRAYER

Psalms 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.

C. MY FATHER IS GLORIFIED

D. PROOF OF DISCIPLESHIP

E. LOVE

F. COMPLETE JOY

John 3:25-30

CONCLUSION: A LIFE OF DEPENDENCE

Fruitfulness in this life is dependent on connection to and dependence on Christ.

? Is your life a life of selfish pursuits?

? Is your life a life of dependence on Christ?

APPLICATION

? How many people have you told about Jesus this week, this month, this year, this decade, ever?

? How many people have you discipled (come alongside) in your lifetime?

? How faithful are you in the basics of Christianity, prayer, bible reading, giving, serving church attendance?