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## REAL LIFE

**John 15:1-17, ESV** – “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

### Notes:

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3.

# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of July 7, 2019  
John 15:1-17

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that abiding in Christ allows us to be fruitful for Him and to show His love to others. What does it mean to abide in Christ?
- 2 What does Jesus mean by "bear much fruit"? How have you seen this happen in your own life?
- 3 What is the relationship between obeying His commandments and abiding in His love? How have you obeyed His commandment to "love one another"?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**A** **2 Peter 1:3-8, ESV** – <sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 4 Looking at the passage above, how can we keep ourselves from being "unfruitful"? Define each of the attributes listed by Peter?

5 What is the source of these attributes? Why is it important to stay connected with Jesus?

6 How are you staying connected with Jesus on a regular basis?

**B** **Col 1:9-14, ESV** – <sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

7 When reading passages about being fruitful, who's fruit is it? What is our role as followers of Christ?

8 How are you being filled with knowledge of His will? Are there aspects of your walk that can be improved upon? Explain.

**C** **John 14:21-23, ESV** – <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

9 How is obedience the pathway to joy?

10 What commandments do you keep? Are there some commandments that you struggle with or do not keep? What obstacles are keeping you from obeying His commandments?

## TAKING IT HOME

God wants us to stay connected with Him. In so doing, we become fruitful for Him as we show His love to others and do good works. It all starts with staying connected to God. How do you personally stay connected with God? Share your “best practices” with your life group. What are some new practices that you are going to try and incorporate in your life? Share with your accountability partner and pray together.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matt 12:50  
Rom 11:7  
1 Cor 3:9  
Phil 1:11  
Col 1:6, 23