

The Passage:

John 15:1-17 ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ **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.** ⁶ 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. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (NIV)

The Point: A follower of Jesus has to STAY CONNECTED to Jesus in order to live out the life He wants us to live.

REASON TO STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS

1. I will not be CUT OFF from God.

John 15:1-2 ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² 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." (NIV)

Isaiah 59:2 "... your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." (NIV)

Hebrews 12:5-11 ⁵... 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastens everyone He accepts as His son.' ⁷ Endure hardships as discipline; God is treating you as His children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (NIV)

John 15:6 “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.” (NIV)

2. I will experience an ABUNDANT life.

John 15:5 “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.”

Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control ...” (NIV)

Ephesians 5:8-11 ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the **fruit** of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” (NIV)

Colossians 1:6 “... the gospel is **bearing fruit** and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.” (NIV)

Colossians 1:9-12 ⁹ ... We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: **bearing fruit** in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father ... “ (NIV)

3. I will have an effective PRAYER LIFE.

John 15:7 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

James 5:16 “... confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (NIV)

4. I will GLORIFY God.

John 15:8 “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (NIV)

Matthew 5:16 “... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (NIV)

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS

1. Connect with HIS WORD.

John 15:10 “If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in His love.” (NIV)

2. Connect with PRAYER.

Matthew 6:5-8 ⁵ And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” (NIV)

Matthew 6:9-13 ⁹ This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (NIV)

3. Connect with OTHER CHRISTIANS.

1 John 1:12 “No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.” (NIV)

4. Connect with SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS.

Luke 15:31-32 ³¹ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; He was lost and is found.’ (NIV)

Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (NIV)

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 ²³ ... The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when He gave thanks, He broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink, in remembrance of me.” (NIV)

5. Connect with SERVING.

Mathew 25:40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

BOTTOM LINE

Psalms 1:1-3 “¹ 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;² but those whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night. ³ 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.” (NIV)

COMMUNION

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