

The Vine and the Branches

1. Connection
 - A. Connection to vine paramount
 - B. John 15:5-6 - *I am the vine, you are the branches; abides in Me, bears much fruit; does not abide in Me, throw them into the fire*
 - C. Difference between bearing fruit and burning in fire
2. Abiding is the key
 - A. John 15:4 - *branch cannot bear fruit, unless it abides, neither can you*
 - B. John 15:7 - *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you*
3. What does it mean to abide?
 - A. 1 John 2:24
 - B. Greek: *meno*
 - 1) Translated: abide 61, remain 16, dwell 15, continue 11, tarry 9, endure 3, misc 5
 - C. KJV 1 John 2:24 - *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*
4. Case of failure to abide: John 8
 - A. Starts and ends with abiding.
 - 1) John 8:31 - *abide in My word, you are My disciples*
 - 2) John 8:43 - *not able to listen to My word*
 - B. Abiding in Christ's word leads to freedom
 - 1) John 8:32 - *truth shall make you free*
 - C. Confused response
 - 1) John 8:33 - *Abraham's descendants; never been in bondage*
 - 2) Egyptians, Romans
 - D. Clarification of the real issue
 - 1) John 8:34 - *commits sin is a slave of sin.*
 - 2) Bondage to sin is worst kind
 - E. Proof of the problem
 - 1) John 8:37-38 - *you seek to kill Me; My word has no place in you; you do what you have seen with your father*
 - 2) They do not accept Christ's word
 - 3) Questioning parentage
 - F. Denial
 - 1) John 8:39a - *Abraham is father*
 - G. More proof of bad parentage
 - 1) John 8:39b-41a - *If Abraham's children; works of Abraham; You do the deeds of your father*
 - 2) True children reflect the father's works
 - H. A little retaliation and escalation
 - 1) John 8:41b - *not born of fornication; Father—God*
 - 2) Swipe at virgin birth
 - 3) Climb up a few rungs: father = God
 - I. God's children reflect his works
 - 1) John 8:42 - *God Father, love Me*
 - J. Bottom line
 - 1) John 8:43 - *not able to listen to My word.*
 - 2) John 8:44 - *You are of your father the devil*
 - K. Not abiding/remaining/connecting -> Devil's child
5. Real sonship
 - A. Galatians 3:29 - *if Christ's, Abraham's seed*
 - B. Galatians 3:26 - *sons of God through faith in Christ*
 - C. Abraham's seed = faith in Christ = sons of God
 - D. Otherwise, sons of the devil
6. What it takes to be sons of God
 - A. Galatians 3:27 - *baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
 - B. More than just getting dunked in water
 - 1) Romans 6:3 - *baptized into His death?*
 - C. What kind of death?
 - 1) Romans 8:13 - *live according to flesh, die; if put to death deeds of body, live*
 - 2) Romans 13:14 - *put on Christ, make no provision for the flesh*
 - D. Who are sons?
 - 1) Romans 8:14 - *led by the Spirit of God*
 - E. Die to self, live for the Spirit
7. Adoption
 - A. Romans 8:15 - *Spirit of adoption*
 - B. Ephesians 1:5 - *predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus*
8. Why adoption needed?

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- A. Ephesians 2:1-3 - *made alive; dead in trespasses and sins; sons of disobedience; fulfilling the desires of the flesh; by nature children of wrath*
 - B. Naturally children of wrath
 - C. Naturally sons of Adam, no life to give us
 - D. Galatians 4:4-5 - *adoption as sons*
9. Meaning of adoption
- A. Romans 9:6-8 - *not all Israel who are of Israel; not all children because seed of Abraham; children of the flesh not the children of God*
 - 1) Not flesh and blood, but spirit
 - B. Parents adopt
 - 1) Treat adopted like natural child
 - 2) Not any different
 - C. Children adopt
 - 1) Take on characteristics of new parents
 - 2) Reflect new parents
10. Grafting
- A. Branch from one tree, attach to another
 - B. Life from tree flows into the branch, bears fruit
 - C. By nature we come from dead tree
 - D. Must be grafted to a living tree – Christ
 - E. Christ's life flows in and through us
11. Once grafted always grafted?
- A. Romans 11:22-23 - *continue in His goodness; else also cut off; if do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in*
 - B. Continue – Greek *epimeno*
 - C. Disconnect a grafted branch -> dead branch
 - D. Do not continue in unbelief -> grafted again
12. Always abide
- A. We do not naturally abide – wild olives
 - B. World not helpful in abiding
 - C. Satan tempts us to disconnect
 - D. Only hope is constantly abiding in Christ