

Sermon Series: In the Upper Room
Sermon Text: John 15:1-11
Sermon Title: Our Vital Union with Christ

2 pictures

I. THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTER OF THIS UNION 1-6

A. THE CONTROLLING PERSPECTIVE 1-2

The last of Jesus' "I AM" self-affirmation. The Divine Affirmation- relationship of Father and Son = pattern of relationship between Jesus and disciples. Genuine vine vs unfaithful vine of Israel, Ps 80, esp. vv. 8-19; Jer 2:21; 12:10-11; etc. Vinedresser, Isa 5:1-7; meticulous, painstaking, continuous, thorough care to ensure it fulfills its intended purpose. The Dual Activity-purging (removal) of the unfaithful, unfruitful, recall Gal 5:22-23. OT references suggest unfruitfulness of disobedience. Continuity of divine activity. One people, one will. Judas. See Isa 18:5-6; Only outward ID with Christ, church, Pruning (cleansing) of the faithful, Jer 5:10; Heb 12:4-11. Overall purpose = increased productivity, additional, abundant fruit. Peter. The Creation Mandate, Gen 1:11-12, 22, 28.

B. THE COMMENCED PROCESS 3

It began when they heard the teaching of Christ and combined it with faith, cf. 13:10-11

C. THE CONFIDENT PRODUCTIVITY 4-5

The Direct Command- *abide* occurs 10 times in vv. 4-10; to remain with undying, steadfastness, perseverance, etc.; mutual abiding. Judas already purged and Satan threatening to sift the rest like wheat; organic vital union. The Derived Cultivation. The Dependent Connection- repetition of v. 1 followed by the rule and the result. Without Christ we are/have "no nothing."

D. THE CONTRASTING PERIL 6

The doom of unfruitfulness. Eze 15:1-8; Mt 3:10; 13:30. A vivid picture of the inescapable destruction of the useless, fruitless, faithless. Not the 5 aspects of punishment; deliberate details of doom. They were never true disciples of the true vine.

II. THE FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THIS UNION 7-11

A. THE PRIVILEGE WE ARE REASSURED 7

Note again the mutual abiding, v. 4. Authentic disciples, 8:31. Prayers to to the Father in accordance with his kingdom purposes and principles, Mt 26:39; Lk 22:42. Reinforces Jn 14:12-14. On the other hand, fruitlessness in life carries over into fruitlessness in prayer.

B. THE PROOF THAT IS REQUIRED 8

Recall WSC #1. Our supreme honor = to glorify our Father in heaven. As the father is glorified in the Son's absolute faithfulness in carrying out his redemptive work, 12:23, 28, 31-32; 13:31-32; 17:1, so he is glorified in fruit-bearing disciples

C. THE PARALLELS WE WILL REFLECT 9-10

Christ's love for us parallels the Father's love for him. Obedience to Christ results in our abiding in Christ's love. This reflects Christ's obedience to the Father and His abiding in the Father's love. Christ's death on the cross is the highest expression of his obedience to and love for the Father. Abiding in Christ's love, in God's love stated 3 times

D. THE PLEASURE WE WILL REALIZE 11

Similar to his peace, 14:27. Sovereignly Given. Spiritually Generated - from Christ, 16:24; 17:13; fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-23.