

CONNECTED FOR PRODUCTIVITY

Scripture reading;

John15: 1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

²Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

⁶If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

⁷If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

⁸Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

One of the most important journeys in life is that of getting to know who you are in Christ.

You need to make a discovery of your identity in Christ because it makes you position yourself strategically for God's grace to make you become what HE has called you.

By knowing your identity in Christ you are released to walk in greater levels of expectations and there is demand for deeper levels of responsibility.

So a discovery of your identity in Christ demands a greater level of expectations because then you make a demand and that which accrues to you.

And it also comes with the responsibility because when you discover your identity in Christ there are certain requirements that are needed of you so that you can maximize your potential.

It is this knowledge of your identity that opens for us the unlimited possibilities that are in God.

In fact our approach to God and our approach to life as Christians is predicated upon our understanding of who we are.

In **John 15** Jesus begins to unfold for us our identity.

But He begins by defining Himself – He says, **“I am the true vine and my Father is the vine dresser”** and then He says in verse 5 that we are **the branches of the vine.**

This is a very powerful metaphor and symbolism that Jesus is using to describe His relationship with us His people.

Now how did we become the branches of Him the vine – by reason of an intimate covenant relationship that was sealed by His blood.

This is very significant that our connection to Christ is not cosmetic, plastic or fake but authentic and real through the covenant that we have with Him sealed by blood.

He then teaches us in Verse 2 that the purpose of the branches is to produce fruit.

So the ultimate destiny of the branches is not to decorate the vine but to bear fruit.

In fact the branches that do not bear fruit are judged so harshly by being disconnected and thrown into the fire.

So the ultimate destiny of the branches is to bear fruit – and not just fruit but much fruit.

But then you may ask me what kind of fruit is the branch supposed to bear – am glad you asked.

You see the kind of fruit that the tree bears is defined by what type of tree it is.

So if Christ is the vine then the fruits must be like the vine, that is like Christ.

So the branches must bear Christ like fruits – so what I am saying is that what we see in Christ is the exact fruit that I should be bringing forth.

So if the destiny of the branch is fruitfulness and the type of tree is Christ type, I must then excel in bearing Christ type fruits.

What are Christ like fruits – that is very simple – whatever you see in Christ must be the fruit you produce.

Very important.

What are Christ like fruits?

Christ manifested the fruit of peace, patience, loving His enemies, walking in power, He showed hospitality by feeding the hungry, His ministry was never broke, He showed fruit by manifesting miracles, sign and wonders, He manifested fruit by impacting others positively, by lifting the broken and setting the captives free, it was a life of holiness and purity.

So the vine is planted to bless the earth with its fruits – in fact the glory of the vine is found in the branches that are manifesting fruit.

Jesus teaches that the Father is glorified when we bear much fruit.

By the fruits of the vine is the Father glorified.

So the vinedresser is after the fruit – the fruit comes from the branches, the branches are connected to the vine.

So all that the vine tree pulls from the ground, from the minerals and the fatness of the ground – it is passed on to the branches.

That is why I believe that if you are properly connected you will not lack.

Now Jesus teaches that if we abide in Him and His words abide in us – we shall forever be in the place of fruitfulness

What is to abide?

To abide is to take permanent residence it is to stay permanently in a given place, state or location.

If you look at the carpet on the floor it is blue in color.

The color blue has taken permanent residence in the carpet.

Jesus teaches us that for us to be fruitful we must ABIDE – that is take permanent residence in Him.

That is to say your fruitfulness is not a function of your effort but the level of your covenant connection with Him.

I tell you if you can get what I am teaching today your perpetual tears would come to an abrupt end.

So check this out, the glory of the vine is in the fruit so the vine of necessity must produce fruit so that the vinedresser can be glorified – for this to happen the branches must be properly fed by the vine so that they can produce.

So the vinedresser must make sure that the vine has the necessary food to provide the branches with sap so that the branches can be fruitful.

That is why child of God, God will ensure you have what you need so that you can be fruitful.

It even gets better, the vinedresser will not only provide vine food but will also prune the branches that are productive so that they can produce more fruit.

And this is where many of you are.

You are going through the pruning of God not so that He can destroy you but so that you can be even more fruitful.

The Bible declares, **“By this my Father is glorified that you bear much fruit.”**

So listen to me, a higher level of productivity demands a higher level of pruning.

So there is some stuff in your life that God will deal with so hard so that they do not hinder your productivity.

Then Jesus says something powerful – if you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you desire and it shall be done for you.

You see when you give the word of God permanent residence in your heart it has the power to transform your entire life – your perceptions, your concepts, your thought process and align them accurately with the will, plan and agenda of God for your life.

So when the word of God takes a permanent residence in your heart we can then come boldly and ask what we desire.

Because our desires will be in tune with His desires and our agenda will be in tune with His agenda, we shall then ask in line with His plans, will and agenda and it shall be done for us.