

Week of April 22, 2012
Jesus Lives in Believers

Passage Outline:

1. We Are Crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:19b-21)
2. We Are Raised with Christ (Rom. 6:1-7)
3. We Are Productive with Christ (John 15:1-5)

What's Our Study About?

We will learn what it means for Jesus to live in believers, sharing in His crucifixion, resurrection, and life.

How Can Our Study Impact Your Life?

It will inspire you to live by faith, to walk free from sin's bondage, and to produce spiritual fruit by means of Jesus' living in you.

1. We Are Crucified with Christ - Galatians 2:19b-21

Galatians 2:19b-21

¹⁹ ...so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

- A. Paul wrote to the Galatians to clarify and defend the truth of the gospel against those who wanted to add "works" to the requirements for salvation.
- B. In the preceding verses, Peter had come to Antioch and refused to eat with Gentiles because of pressure from Jewish leaders. This was unacceptable to Paul.
- C. So, Paul emphasized the change our salvation made, using very strong words, "I have been crucified with Christ."
- D. Paul's identification with Jesus meant he was no longer living in his own power and strength.
- E. Being crucified with Christ means a radical and irreversible transformation in people who put their faith in Jesus.
- F. This does not mean that temptations cease. We still experience temptation.
- G. However, we no longer are sin's slaves. We have freedom to say "no" to sin, and we have the power of the crucified Christ living in us to resist the temptations sin offers.
- H. How do we live this New Life in Jesus? Being crucified with Christ, we have put to death our own wishes and desires.
- I. The object of our faith is Jesus Christ, a person who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- J. We, who genuinely trust Christ for salvation, should see evidence that Jesus is living in us.
- K. Paul concluded this section saying that if righteousness comes through the law, or by keeping rules and regulations, then Christ died for nothing. If we had another way to be saved, why did Christ come and why did He die?
 - i. Salvation by the law is impossible;

- ii. The only hope for righteousness is trusting in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- iii. We cannot achieve salvation by works; we must receive it by faith.

Please read the article *“The Law in First-Century Jewish Thought”* contained in your preparation packet from last Sunday. If you missed picking it up – additional copies are on the back table.

Where Are You in Your Dying With Christ?

I have asked Christ
to forgive my sins

I am trying my best to
commit my life to Christ

I consider myself dead
to self and alive to Christ

2. We Are Raised with Christ - Romans 6:1-7

Romans 6:1-7

¹ What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- ⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

- A. Some people think that since they are saved by grace, they can continue to live any way they want to live, and God is obligated to forgive them.
- B. Salvation means more than being released from the penalty of sin.
- C. Salvation means a death to the old way of life and a resurrection to a new way of life.
- D. Paul stated that “where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more” (Romans 5:20). In other words, where sin was great, God matched it with even greater grace.
- E. Some thought that if sin multiplied grace, then they should continue in sin, so we can get more grace.
- F. Paul condemned this attitude with the strongest of words, "Absolutely not!"
- G. How can we who died to sin still live in it?
 - i. Sin did not die to the believer, that's why we are still tempted.
 - ii. But the believer died to sin, so that we now can defeat Satan's temptations.
- H. To underscore the death to sin that takes place in us, Paul referred to our baptism.
 - i. When we were baptized, we were placed in a tomb with Jesus. The first part of baptism is a burial service.
 - ii. At the conclusion of our Baptism, we rise from the waters as if raised from the dead, just like Jesus, in order to live a new life.

Please read the article “*Newness of Life*” contained in your preparation packet you picked up last Sunday. If you missed picking it up – additional copies are on the back table.

- I. Many people claim to have experienced salvation, but their lives remain unchanged. Salvation that does not transform is not salvation at all.
- J. Salvation transforms us day by day into the image of Christ. We will never be perfect, but we continue to make progress if we have genuinely experienced death and resurrection in Christ.

Fill In the Blanks

Choose from the following words [**Able, Sin, Not, To**] to complete each sentence. You may use the words more than once.

God is _____.

Unbelievers are _____.

Believers are _____.

Answer: God is not able to sin. Unbelievers are not able not to sin. Believers are able not to sin.

3. We Are Productive with Christ - John 15:1-5

John 15:1-5

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, and I will 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 a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- A. For many people, salvation means forgiveness and a home in heaven. While both of these are true, salvation also impacts life in the present.
- B. If salvation only meant forgiveness of sins and future security, why would the Lord leave us on earth after our salvation? Answer: To impact the lives of others and make an eternal difference.
- C. In the illustration: Jesus is the vine; the Father is the Gardener; and we are the branches.
- D. What do branches do? Jesus said that those who follow Him (the branches) would produce good fruit.
- E. The Father's task, as the gardener, was to determine which branches were productive and which were unproductive, some bearing no fruit, some fruit, and others much fruit.
 - i. The gardener removes those branches bearing NO fruit;
 - ii. The gardener prunes those branches bearing SOME fruit;
 - iii. The gardener tends those branches bearing MUCH fruit;
- F. Which kind of branches would you like in your garden?

G. Fruitfulness means reproducing oneself:

- i. Grape branches produce _____?
- ii. Apple tree branches produce _____?
- iii. Christian branches produce _____?

Please read the article ***“To Be Clean”*** contained in your preparation packet you picked up last Sunday. If you missed picking it up – additional copies are on the back table.

H. Jesus uses the word "remain" 11 times in the passage in John 15. It referred to someone resting effortlessly, or abiding.

I. A branch does not stand on its own; its life is found only as it rests in the vine.

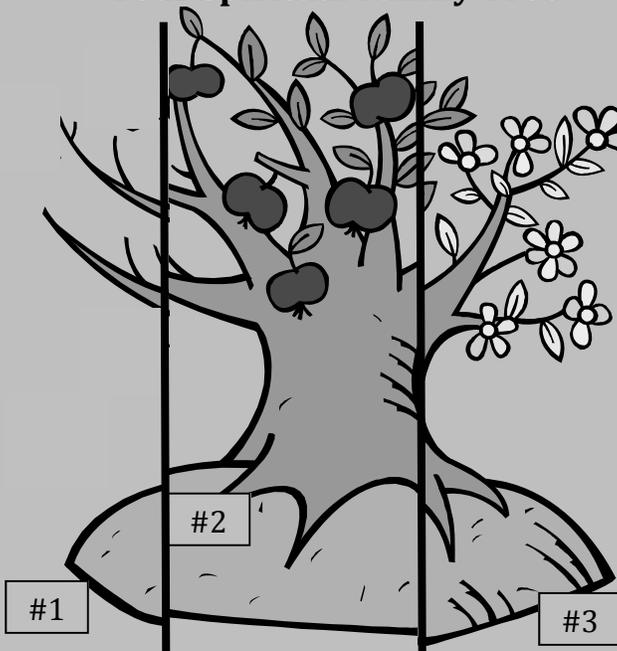
J. Likewise, disciples do not stand on their own either. They cannot produce fruit on their own but only as they remain connected to Jesus.

K. Therefore Jesus tells His disciples to remain in Him. As a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself, Jesus taught that His disciples could not produce fruit without abiding in Him.

L. Jesus summarized the relationship with His disciples:

- i. Jesus is the vine;
- ii. The disciples are the branches;
- iii. The branches produce much fruit, but only by being connected to Jesus;

Your Spiritual Family Tree



There are three kinds of branches on this tree, divided into three separate panes. What kind of branch are you, and why? What do you expect the Father, our Gardener, to do with your branch?