

3-28-21 MESSAGE
HOW TO ABIDE IN CHRIST
THE SPIRITUAL UNION WE HAVE IN CHRIST

It is starting to feel like spring. The sun is out longer, it is getting warmer. I was talking to David White, about what I should do with my peach tree to get it to bear fruit. One of the things that can be done is to prune it. Jesus used the concept of pruning a tree to illustrate how God prunes our lives, and His church so we might be more fruitful for Him. The secret to being fruitful for the Lord is wrapped up in abiding in Him.

This morning I want to talk to you about How we should abide in Christ. Jesus uses the illustration of a vine and the branches to illustrate our relationship to Him. He says we are the branches and He is the trunk of the vine. He wants us to abide in Him and be fruitful. This morning and tonight we are going to talk about how we become fruitful in Him by abiding in Him.

I. THE PARABLE OF THE VINE AND BRANCHES ILLUSTRATE WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSE TO HAVE IN CHRIST.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

John 15:2 Every 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.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

John 15:4 Abide 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.

John 15:5 I 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.

John 15:6 If 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.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

HOW DO WE ABIDE IN CHRIST?

John Chapter 15 clearly tells us how we can be fruitful in Christ. Our Lord gives us a complete formula. This morning I want to look at his formula and try to apply what He says in this chapter to our lives.

I. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY ABIDING IN HIS WORD.

II. WE ABIDE IN CHRISIT BY PURGING OURSELVES OF SIN.

III. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIM.

IV. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

V. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY CHOOSING CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE OVER THE WORLD.

First of all consider this:

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORD OF GOD IS THE TEST OF OUR UNITY WITH CHRIST.

I. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY ABIDING IN HIS WORD.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

John 15:2 Every 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.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

John 15:4 Abide 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.

John 15:5 I 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.

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John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

1. To the degree that we abide in the Word of God it is to this degree that we are abiding in Christ.

Jesus said,

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Just like the sap flows from the vine into the branches so it is that the Word of God needs to permeate our very lives.

This happens as we meditate in His Word.

What the sap is to the branch,
God's word is to us as Christians.

When a Christian stops reading God's Word and stops meditating in God's Word, it is only a matter of time that a Christian who does not abide in the word of God will dry up spiritually and fizzle out in his spiritual walk and life. TO ABIDE IN CHRIST IS TO ABIDE IN HIS WORD!!!

2. GOD'S WORD IS OUR SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE OR FOOD.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

I Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Often I have seen older people just before they die, they lose their appetite for food. What physical food is to your physical health, the Word of God is to your spiritual health.

Just before a Christian backslides they stop reading their Bible and stop coming to church to hear God's word preached.

3. TO ABIDE IN CHRIST WE NEED TO MEDITATE IN GOD'S WORD.

It is not enough just to hear the words, read the words. We need to take in the words. The Bible likens this to meditation. When we meditate in the Word of God we take it into our lives. Maybe people stop reading their Bibles because they are not getting anything out of it. They get nothing out of it because they are not meditating on what they read.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Some people can quote the Bible but they are just like a parrot mouthing words. This does not make you spiritual.

II. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY LETTING HIM PURGE OUR LIVES OF SIN.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

John 15:2 Every 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.

1. CONSIDER HOW HE PURGES US.

What does this mean, he purgeth it? A spiritual person needs to know what to cut out of their lives as well as what to put into their lives. If you don't judge yourself in these matters God will chasten you to cut out of your life those things that offend Him!

How does God purge our lives?

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

If you are a child of God, God will direct your life through chastening, and sometimes uncomfortable experiences. The Bible says,

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

God bring diverse trials and temptations. The word temptation, here means evil experiences, adversities, testings and trials.

peirasmos, pi-ras-mos'; from 3985; a putting to proof (by experiment of good, experience of evil, solicitation, discipline or provocation); by impl. adversity:-temptation, X try.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

peirazo, pi-rad'-zo; from 3984; to test (obj.), i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline:-assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try.

These uncomfortable experiences are there to discipline us, test us, and prove us, to show out weaknesses, so we might be stronger in our faith.

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

God brings everything into our lives to build us and strengthen us to serve him. So count it all joy because God loves you and is purging you through these experiences. He is not letting you just be a wild vine. He is pruning you to produce better fruit for eternity.

Look at the Apostle Paul, he was given a sickness, a thorn in the flesh. He asked why, and the Lord told him it was so he could be more fruitful for the Lord. Through it he learned to gain spiritual strength through physical weakness.

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2. HE CLEANSSES US FROM SIN THROUGH HIS WORD:

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

John 15:4 Abide 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.

Just as the branch receives nourishment from the vine, so too, we receive spiritual strength and nourishment by abiding in the Word of God!

This cleansing comes by the Word of God. The Word of God is our antibiotic that fights sin in our life. Through the Word of God we recognize sin for what it is.

Our bodies have an immune system that attacks viruses and diseases that enter our body. One of the greatest problems we have with our bodies is that we are not able to purge out impurities when our immune system gets weak.

Problem with Covid is an immunity problem. This is why some people, when exposed to the virus, sometimes have no symptoms at all. Others it knocks them right down. Some have even argued that the real problems are the things in our environment that are weakening our immune systems. Some have argued that the powers that be are not willing to deal with these things and are only focusing in on the virus.

It is no different with any other diseases:

Cold.

Cancer.

Toxins.

Allergies.

The Word of God strengthens our spiritual immune system. By the Word of God we gain discernment, we cease to be ignorant. What is an immune system anyway? Is it not the ability of your body to discern and reject harmful invaders that would hurt your body? Here is a definition of your immune system:

The immune system is made up of cells and organs that protect your body from outside invaders such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites (types of germs) that can cause infection and disease. The immune system also gets rid of abnormal pre-cancerous cells and cancerous cells that are growing out of control. The immune system is made up of cells and organs that protect your body from outside invaders such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites (types of germs) that can cause infection and disease. The immune system also gets rid of abnormal pre-cancerous cells and cancerous cells that are growing out of control.

There are two things that cause a person to become sick:

It is all related to your immune system:

God made your body to heal itself, but if your immune system is too weak it can't fight off disease, or if your immune system is over taxed it can't maintain that balance that you need to stay healthy.

The best way to stay healthy is for your body to purge itself of those invasive germs or viruses that are attacking your body. What happens when your body starts getting sick? You throw up, you get diarrhea, you get a fever, you get a runny nose. These are all symptoms of the war that is taking place in your body because your immune system can't handle the overload of the invasion of germs or viruses in your life.

For you to bear fruit and be a healthy Christian, God says this:

John 15:2 Every 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.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

God says to be a healthy Christian you need to be purged of superfluous things in your life. If you are truly a child of God, he is going to purge you, and work in your life to expel all those spiritually harmful things that will cause you to be unfruitful for the Lord.

So it is that sin will quench the glow of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

This purging is God's chastening in our lives.

I Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

I Corinthians 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

I Corinthians 11:30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

I Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

I Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

I Peter 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

I Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

We abide in Christ when we endure God's chastening, and don't get bitter but learn through these times of Chastening.

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Hebrews 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

Hebrews 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

III. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST WHEN WE ARE OBEDIENT TO HIM.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

John 15:10 **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

John 15:14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**

It is not just enough that we hear the Word of God.

We need to also obey His Word.

Inactivity is often the most destructive thing to our physical health.

So spiritual inactivity is when we hear the Word but do not obey the Word.

I Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

I Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

I Timothy 4:9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

I Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

I Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

IV. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

1. It is a healthy thing that we love others like we love ourselves, when we do not love ourselves we may find it hard to love others.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

A man that cannot love himself cannot love his wife. This is why I tell wives that are complaining that their husbands are mean to them for no reason. I say he does that because he is discontent with himself. Help him to love himself and he will love you more. Be the helpmeet God meant you to be.

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ephesians 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

NOTE THE NATURAL LOGICAL PROGRESSION OF HAVING A PROPER CARE AND LOVE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

IF THE BLOOD FLOW CEASES IN THE PHYSICAL BODY WE WILL BE SICK.

SO TOO, THE SPIRITUAL BODY NEEDS TO NURTURE MUTUAL CARE AND LOVE FOR EACH OTHER.

Paul likens the Church as a spiritual body that must be nurtured and cared for. Each member needs to appreciate the other, and love each other.

I Cor. 12:5- through Chapter 13:5 gives the teaching about how we should love one another and care for each other. These verses show how God's people should work together for the betterment of the body of Christ in His local church.

I Corinthians 12:5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
I Corinthians 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

I Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Notice how the following verses go on to describe how the individual members of the church should work to produce a healthy spiritual body that we call the local church:

I Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

I Corinthians 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

I Corinthians 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

I Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

I Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

I Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

I Corinthians 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

I Corinthians 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

I Corinthians 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

I Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

I Corinthians 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

I Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

I Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

I Corinthians 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

I Corinthians 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

I Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

I Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

I Corinthians 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

I Corinthians 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

I Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

I Corinthians 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Note the progression in these passages. Paul talks about the church being a mystical body of Christ. In essence the church is the bride of Christ and one with Christ. Ephesians 5 likens the church to Christ's bride. A good marriage is a reflection of the true spiritual union we have with Christ. Notice how after talking about the mystical body of Christ in I Corinthians chapter 12, that Paul goes right into defining what true biblical love is in I Corinthians chapter 13! This reminds me of this verse:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

What Paul says here, is that God had in mind the spiritual union that we would have in Christ before He ever established the institution of earthly marriages. The secret to having a good earthly marriage is wrapped up in the reality of our spiritual union with Christ. A physical marriage is till death do you part, the spiritual union is for eternity!

V. WE ABIDE IN CHRIST BY CHOOSING CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE OVER HE WORLD.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

John 15:21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

John 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

John 15:23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

John 15:24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

John 15:25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 15:27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

1. THE WORLD WILL LOVE ITS OWN.

Are you of Christ or of the world?

I John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

I John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

I John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Luke 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

It is supernatural that those of this world have a disdain for us.

They do not like what we say.

They do not like what we teach.

The media is biased against Christ and His people. I have seen this happen through the years. I have experienced the cancel movement before there was ever such a thing.

I have had my comments removed from opinion polls, and my statements censored, way before there was such a thing as the cancel generation.

2. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THE WORLD IS CHRIST'S ENEMY AND WE ARE AT ENMITY WITH THE WORLD.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

How do you know that a person is being drawn to Christ??

You know it when they are being drawn to you as a Christian.

Unbelievers want to stay as far away from a true believer as possible.

When you are being a good testimony and not hiding Christ under a bushel, so to speak, when people are drawn to you they are being drawn to Christ.

Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

AS HE IS SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD.

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

**3. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WE DO NOT YOKE UP WITH THE WORLD.
WE NEED TO SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD.**

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

II Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

II Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**4. IF YOU ARE LIVING RIGHT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT
REJECTING THE WORLD, THE WORLD WILL REJECT YOU.**

It is a supernatural thing.

Supernatural. How when I 1st got saved, it was immediate that I could sense that my friends and associates had a different attitude towards me.

After I got saved I experienced a rejection from my old buddies.

**5. *THERE IS A SPIRIT OF THE WORLD.
THERE IS A SPIRIT OF CHRIST.***

The world will reject our message, our music, and everything about a true Christian.

The Bible says this about a Christian who compromises and tries to be accepted of the world.

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

We need to be careful that we do not yoke up with the world or we will get hurt.

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

II Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

6. *THIS IS REALLY WHAT MADE THE 5 FOOLISH VIRGINS FOOLISH.*

In Matthew Chapter 25 we read about the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins.

In the parable of the 5 wise and the 5 foolish virgins the 5 unwise virgins looked like Christians, but they lacked one thing. They had no oil in their lamps. That oil was symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

We are born into this world with the spirit of this world.

When we are born again we receive His spirit and the scent of the Holy Spirit alone is what causes the world to reject us.

Certain animals if they sense the sent of human on their young they will reject them.

7. JESUS TOLD HIS OWN BIOLOGICAL BROTHER THAT THIS IS THE WAY IT WORKED.

Those who are not saved will not be rejected of the world. We need to be born again!

John 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

John 7:3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

John 7:4 For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

John 7:6 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

John 7:8 Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come.

John 7:9 When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.

John 7:10 But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

John 7:11 Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?

John 7:12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.

John 7:13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

John 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

John 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

John 7:18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

John 7:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

John 7:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.

John 7:22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.

John 7:23 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

John 7:25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?

John 7:26 But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?

John 7:27 Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

John 7:28 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

John 7:29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

John 7:31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?

John 7:32 The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.

John 7:33 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.

John 7:34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

John 7:35 Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?

John 7:36 What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 7:43 So there was a division among the people because of him.

John 7:44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

John 7:45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

John 7:46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

John 7:47 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?

John 7:48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

John 7:49 But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

John 7:50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

John 7:51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

John 7:52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

John 7:53 And every man went unto his own house.

John 8:1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

Just because someone is biologically related to Christians does not make them a Christian. The Jewish leaders persecuted Jesus because they were of the world. Even our Lord's own brothers did not have it yet. The church does not grow by biological growth. It grows by spiritual duplication.

MESSAGE PART II
JESUS GAVE PARABLES TO WARN HIS CHURCH ABOUT WORLDLINESS
And False Professions of faith.
ARE YOU WISE OR ARE YOU FOOLISH?

Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Matthew 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Matthew 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Intro:

This Parable is about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Note: It is not the Kingdom of this world, but the Kingdom of Heaven.

Thy Kingdom come. It is not here yet and it is opposed to the kingdoms of this world. The kingdoms of this world operate completely different than the Kingdom of Heaven. If you are comfortable in the kingdom(s) of this world and the way they operate then you are going to be uncomfortable with Heaven.

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lust Flesh: All about the flesh.

Lust eyes: All about what looks good.

Pride of life: All about inflating man.

The Lord is looking to recruit citizens out of this world and into His heavenly Kingdom. God chooses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise.

I Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

Remember the thief on the cross: He said remember me when thou enterest thy Kingdom.

Here is how it works.

- 1. *You must repent of your sins look to Him to be your Saviour. He came to earth to pay your sins He died, He arose, and went to Heaven to prepare a place for us. He sent His servants to recruit citizens for this eternal kingdom!***
- 2. *Call on Him to be saved.***
- 3. *When you receive Christ He sends His spirit into your heart as a seal, or earnest or downpayment of your salvation.***

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Without the Holy Spirit you are not saved.
The Spirit of God is the proof that you are saved.

Another parable in the Bible illustrates this:

CONSIDER THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING GARMENT.

Matthew 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Matthew 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Matthew 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

Matthew 22:5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

Matthew 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

Matthew 22:7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Matthew 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Matthew 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Matthew 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Matthew 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

Matthew 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

In a wedding the bridal party all match. To be part of the bridal party you have to wear the right clothes.

Now the wedding garment in this custom was a garment provided by the king. He wanted everyone to wear the right clothing to signify that they were invited by the king to the wedding. This garment was given to Honor His son.

To not wear the garment was to dishonor the king;s son.

In this case the wedding garment, once again, I believe this is the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says that those who are saved should put on Jesus Christ like a garment. A garment is something that you wear on the outside, but the Holy Spirit is something you wear on the inside. God calls this our garment of righteousness. I believe this is the garment that Adam and Eve lost in the garden when they sinned. This is why they sensed they were naked.

BOTH PARABLES ARE TEACHING THE SAME THING BUT FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.

Now there are the wise and there are the foolish.
WHICH ARE YOU THIS MORNING?

I. THE WISE ARE THOSE WHO IN SINCERITY GET SAVED AND ARE GENUINE.

They are not like the ones who reject the invitation.

And why did they reject our Lords invitation?

They did so because they were of this world.

Jews who were enjoying the benefits of Rome.
Jews who were hobnobbing with Rome.

You must accept our Lord's invitation to the wedding on His terms.

You wear what He says to wear.
You attend when He says you will attend.
You do as He says you will do.
You need to sacrifice to purchase the Holy Oil of the Spirit. Count the cost!

This shows your sincerity.

II. THE WISE ARE THOSE WHO ABANDON THIS WORLD IN THEIR HEARTS.

When the bride marries she must vow to forsake all others.

If she is not willing to forsake all others she does not qualify for be married to the groom.

III. THE FOOLISH ARE THOSE WHO THINK THEY CAN WALK ON BOTH SIDES AND STILL BE ACCEPTED.

They know who God is.
They know that there is a hell.
They know that if they reject Him they will be condemned.

But they still love the world, and the things of the world.
They still want to hobnob with the world.

They are not willing to leave the things of the world to be saved.
Therefore they are not willing to pay the price to be genuinely saved.

But they want to be undercover and hang around just in case.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Here is the key, they took no oil.

Matthew 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps,
(this was the outward form of christianity)
and took no oil with them: This was the true substance of being in Christ.

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

This is the day in which we live, a time of no revival, a time where it is hard to tell true Christians apart from non believers.

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

There is a price to pay for this oil.

That price is to give up something that the world values.

That is the esteem of the world.

That is friendship with the world.

The foolish virgins were not willing to pay that price to be citizens of Heaven.

YOU CANNOT HOLD DUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Either you love the world

or you love Christ.

More and more we are seeing the disdain that the world has for anyone that is too close to being a citizen of Heaven.

So we see the disdain for even people that are nominal Christians.

GEORGE BUSH.

SARAH PALIN.

Now we see it with Donald Trump. These are not on fire Christians. They are nominal yet they identify with Christians and God's people and the world hates them! How much more will the world hate us!

IV. WHEN WILL EVERYTHING BE REVEALED? WHAT WILL BE THE TEST?

The test will be the day that we are brought into His presence.

Rapture of the Church
or
death itself.

Invitation:

Who are you fooling when you are not truly His? You are only fooling yourself and other people. You cannot fool God.

He knows whether you have truly received Him or not.
He knows whether you are sincere or not.
He knows those that are His.

Conclusion:

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

II Corinthians 13:6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.