



"The Vital Connection"

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church

– Pastor Ron Schultz –

HSDAC Mission: To develop fully committed followers of Christ

**February 7, 2015
Sermon Notes
for John 15:1-6:**

1. What was going on with Jesus and His disciples when Jesus gave the word picture of the vine and branches?

2. John 15:1

Key Insight: The vine was an important symbol of Israel. By calling Himself the _____, Jesus was declaring Himself the new Israel and was setting up a new _____ of faith.

3. John 15:2,3

–14 Manuscript Release 85-1

Key Insight: If the grape branches are not heavily _____ the quality of fruit is poor. Through the pruning shears of the Holy Spirit the Father prunes us to maximize our fruitfulness for Jesus.

Growth Question: What pruning of your life do you sense the Spirit wanting to make? Which of the following best describes your present response to this pruning: Green light. Yellow light. Red light.

4. John 15:4

–Lessons from the tree nursery and bread making

–Desire of Ages, p. 675

Key Insight: Like _____ is to good bread, so Jesus' indwelling is the essential ingredient in the life of a dynamic, joyous, passionate follower of Jesus. Jesus will infuse his divine power and _____ into our lives and personalities.

5. John 15:5

Key Insight: When it comes to being part of Jesus' community of faith, it's impossible for us to contribute anything without the vital connection that comes with _____ abiding.

6. John 15:6

Key Insight: Jesus gives a strong warning: A failure to _____ connected to Jesus brings catastrophic ruin.

7. The vital connection with Jesus – It's a moment-by-moment continuous experience. Application: What does that really look like and how is it achieved?

8. Support for spiritual accountability relationships:

A. What has the Holy Spirit revealed as the greatest threat or challenge to you staying connected with Jesus?

B. What experience from the past few days reveals that Jesus is abiding in you in a vital, connected way?

C. When it comes to keeping close and connected to Jesus, this is how you can pray for me this week:

9. Prayer: "Lord Jesus, I confess that I naturally go sole and do not partner with you. I chose to invite the Holy Spirit first thing in my day to dwell in me so that moment-by-moment, I am prompted to keep my vital connection with you and my focus on you. And when I drift off, please prompt me to return to abiding in You and You in me. I invite You to infuse your power and nature into me so that I may be a fruitful disciple this day for you. In your name, Lord Jesus, I pray."

"Christ came to our world to elevate humanity, to renew in man the image of God, that man might become the partaker of the divine nature. Jesus gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Christ dwelling in our hearts by faith causes us to become as a branch grafted into the true Vine. The Majesty of heaven gave His life to make us individually His own by bringing back the transgressor to his loyalty to God's law, by turning away the sinner from his iniquity. Oh, that men would love and fear God!" Ellen White, 14 Manuscript Release 85.1

"I am the Vine, ye are the branches," Christ said to His disciples. Though He was about to be removed from them, their spiritual union with Him was to be unchanged. The connection of the branch with the vine, He said, represents the relation you are to sustain to Me. The scion is engrafted into the living vine, and fiber by fiber, vein by vein, it grows into the vine stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved." Ellen White, Desire of Ages, p. 675