

STAYING FULL

1. STAYING CONNECTED - JOHN 15

Read and unpack **John 15:1-17** verse by verse.

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

- Jesus is the VINE; YOU are the branches. You are NOT the vine! Your job is to point others to the vine.
- A branch doesn't manufacture life. It receives life by staying connected to the Vine.

The question isn't only, "How full am I?" The question is, "Am I connected to the Source?"

Jesus keeps bringing the conversation back to loving each other.

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." – John 15:15

"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching," – John 15:23

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." - John 15:12

"This is my command: Love each other." - John 15:17

3. SO WHAT DOES DISCONNECTION LOOK LIKE?

Ephesians 4:29-5:21

If connection to the Vine produces a life that increasingly looks like Jesus, what does disconnection look like?

- Corrupt or unwholesome speech
- Bitterness, rage and anger
- Fighting, slander and malice
- Sexual immorality and impurity
- Greed
- Foolish and coarse talk
- Unwise living
- Drunkenness

It's interesting how often Paul brings it back to how we treat one another.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other..." - Ephesians 4:32

"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us..." - Ephesians 5:2

"Be filled with the Spirit..." - Ephesians 5:18

"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." -Ephesians 5:19

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." -Ephesians 5:21

Disconnection/Sin is selfish, all about you, versus loving God or others.

4. FRUIT IS THE NATURAL OVERFLOW

"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." - John 15:5

Fruit is the natural overflow of connection to the Vine.

5. ABIDING - HOW DO WE NURTURE CONNECTION?

Stay planted.

- Prayer
- The Word
- Worship
- Church community
 - Communion
 - Baptism
 - Rhythms of gathering and remembering

The rhythms don't fill us; they continually turn us back toward the Source and keep us connected to the vine.

What does the enemy so often attack? Our connection.

- Isolation
- Offense
- Division
- Bitterness
- Unforgiveness
- Busyness that pulls us away from community

Staying filled isn't as much about managing what's in my pitcher as it is about staying connected to the Source - the Vine.

Stay connected to the Vine.

Stay connected to His Word.

Stay connected through prayer.

Stay connected to His people.

Stay obedient.

Stay in His love.

And let the Holy Spirit produce the fruit.

Stay connected. Stay full.