

The Bulletin

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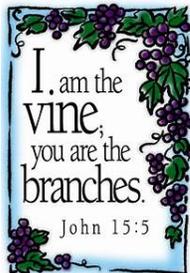
July 1, 2018

“Our Relationship With Jesus”

By Brian Meade

What does our relationship with Jesus look like? Does it involve any action on our part to have a relationship with Jesus? Does Jesus say anything in the scriptures concerning a relationship to Him and His heavenly Father? Questions like these come up very frequently as we study our relationship to God. Let us always look to the word of God itself to answer such questions.

Jesus said in John 15:1-5, *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*



These passages of scripture speak of our vital relationship with Jesus Christ. He is referred to as “*the true vine*” and we are “*the branches*” that abide in Him. This illustration would be familiar to the Jews who knew very well about vine dressing and it teaches us some valuable lessons even today.

(1) We must remain in Him.

Each and every individual Christian is a branch that is connected to the life source—the True Vine. Just like the branches of a vine must stay connected in order to be nourished and survive, we must stay in Jesus to have spiritual life within us. The forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:13) as well as all spiritual blessings are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). That’s why we should never desire to be anywhere else! (John 6:68)

(2) We must bear fruit.

It is obvious from these scriptures that Jesus expects us to grow and bear fruit. Living the Christian life is all about bearing fruit for our Lord (John 15:8; Phil. 4:17). This requires life, active faith in service, good works, and obedience to Christ. Jesus will cut off those who do not bear fruit for Him (verse 2). We know very well what happens to the branches that are cut off or severed from the vine, they cease growing and die. Let us never be severed from our Lord. For without Christ, we are nothing!

(3) Jesus Required Obedience For A Relationship With Him.

Even from the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry, He required the obedience of those who sought to follow Him. Notice the words of Jesus in Luke 9:23, *“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”* To follow Jesus meant a denial & sacrifice in following Jesus that only a few would really commit themselves to (Luke 9:57-62; Mark 10:21-22).

Jesus would say in Luke 6:46, *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”* It is evident that some, even then, wanted to call Jesus Lord—but failed to do what He asked of them. For Jesus to be our Lord and master, we must obey His teachings to make it so. Otherwise it is only lip-service (Matt. 15:8).

Jesus would also say in John 14:15, *“If you love me, keep my commandments.”* Later in the same chapter, *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.’”* (John 14:23-24)

In order for the Father and the Son to *“make our home with him,”* we must first keep Jesus’ words. This describes what this relationship must have in order to exist. Some may want a relationship with no rules or anything at all that obligates them, but Jesus says otherwise (Matthew 7:21; 7:24-27).

Our relationship with Jesus begins when we obey the gospel (Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16; II Thessalonians 1:8). This is when we first experience reconciliation of the fellowship that was lost in the Garden of Eden because of disobedience (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

But there are those who mistakenly believe Christ did everything on the cross and that we have no obligation to obey Christ and be saved. But nothing could be further from the truth. Passages of scripture like Romans 5:19 are often used as a proof text for this view. Paul says, *“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”*

We understand and affirm that Paul was speaking specifically about Adam’s disobedience and Christ’s obedience. That the fellowship (or relationship) with God we had lost when Adam transgressed can now be regained through Jesus’ obedience on the cross (Phil. 2:8; Matt. 26:28).

Then it is often said, that there is no obedience required for us in Romans 5:19—no mention of man doing anything to secure salvation. And that is true, only in the sense of the atonement of blood required by Christ’s obedience on the cross. You and I cannot add to the propitiation, but we can obey Christ in being born again (John 3:3-5; I Peter 1:22-23; Rom. 6:3-6).

Notice in Hebrews 5:8-9, *“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”* Jesus is our example to show us what true obedience looks like. His obedience is the pattern for us to obey Him (Rom. 16:25-26; II Corinthians 10:5). There is no salvation (or relationship) to Jesus without obeying Him.

(4) Jesus is Our King.

In John 18:37, *“Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’”*



Every kingdom must have four elements in order to exist.

(1) A king— the one has the right to rule and govern the kingdom. Jesus has the right to rule us because of His obedience at the cross (Philippians 2:8-11).

Daniel saw, in the *night visions*, the crowning of king Jesus hundreds of years before its fulfillment, when he wrote, *“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. “And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”* (Daniel 7:13-14)

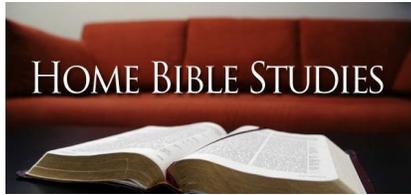
(2) A territory— the territory of which a kingdom has been defined and established by its borders. Jesus’ kingdom is different than all other kingdoms. It has no particular lands or borders that it may be invaded by other kingdoms. It is the rule of God in the hearts of men, *“...For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”* (Luke 17:21). As a matter of fact, it is made up of people from all other nations. Isaiah said, *“all nations shall flow unto it.”* (Isaiah 2:2; Daniel 7:14)

(3) Laws— the body of laws that govern citizenship in the kingdom. Obedience to the laws of Jesus’ kingdom are required of all citizens, as the only other option to obedience is disobedience! The laws for Jesus’ kingdom are the New Testament (Matthew-Revelation). Thus, all Christians are accountable to the new Covenant teachings, laws, and principals (Colossians 3:17)

(4) Subjects— the people who are subject to the king and thus are under his care, protection, leadership, and authority (Matthew 28:18). 1 Peter 2:9 speaks to our relationship to Jesus by saying, *“But you are a chosen race, a*

royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

As we are willing and obedient subjects to our king Jesus— may we ever give praise and worship to His name!



A Women's Bible Class

will meet monthly at Mico, TN. at the home of Chris and Kathryn Callahan the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Martha Norvell (in Corinth Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, Eric Potts, Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Robert Adams, and Velma Tucker, Gaddy Hall, and Kelcy Whittemore.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon:

"When We Forget God"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Paul Johnson

The Book of John (Mike Willis)

Lesson 1 (New book)

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Russell Briggs

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Adam Harris

Malachi 1:8-10

Song Leader:

Paul Busby

Lord's Table:

Russell Briggs

Assisting:

Nathan Meade & Chris Callahan

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Invitation:

"What We Need to Bring to Worship"

Closing Prayer:

Jerry Kennemur

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 4th:

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Johnson

1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)

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Invitation:

Brian Meade

Song Leader:

Daniel Holloway

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.