

## **The Foundation for Life & Prayer**

Series: Understanding Prayer

John 15:1-11 (1012)

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### **I. The challenge of being an American Christian**

#### **a. We are culturally conditioned to misunderstand Jesus**

(v. 1-2) <sup>1</sup>*I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>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.*

#### **b. This misunderstanding inevitably leads to disappointment in faith**

*Commitment based >>> Performance >>> Need for approval >>> Conditional love*

### **II. The life-changing truth that sets you free!**

#### **a. A radically different starting point!**

(v. 3) <sup>3</sup>*You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*

John 2:11 <sup>11</sup>*This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*

(Peter) Acts 15:9 <sup>9</sup>*He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith*

(Paul) Romans 1:17 <sup>17</sup>*For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

#### **b. Our "job description" becomes simplified**

(v. 4-6) <sup>4</sup>*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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*

Abide/remain *A primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):—abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (Strong's)*

**c. Our prayer life becomes clearly focused**

(v. 7-10) <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

**d. Our way of evaluating life becomes clear and simple**

Danny Meyer Are you still having fun?

Westminster Creed Line One I believe man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever

(v. 11) <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Nehemiah 8:10 the joy of the LORD is your strength

Commitment based >>> Performance >>> Need for approval >>> Conditional love

Acceptance >>> Abiding/Remaining >>> Pre-Approval >>> Unconditional Love