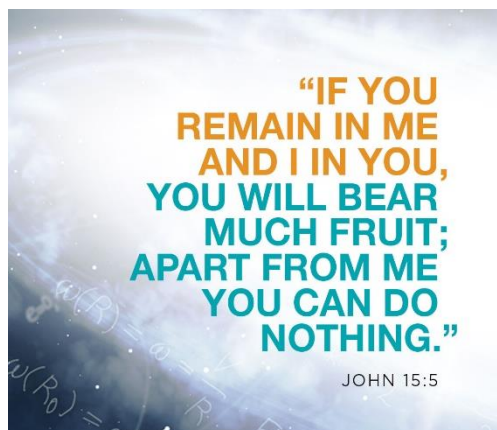




Message 3

IF YOU REMAIN IN ME...THEN...YOU WILL BEAR FRUIT

John 15:1-17

This sermon series is called **IF/THEN**. The premise comes from the "If-Then" conditional statement. This concept is fundamental in math, science, and even computer programming. This concept applies to several key teachings of Christ. As we dive into John chapters 14 and 15, we learn this; If you **really know Jesus** then you know some pretty incredible truths about salvation, God the Father, and living an empowered life. It's one thing to **know about** another person, and it's a whole different thing to **actually know** that person through a mutually beneficial and encouraging relationship. In a similar vein, it's one thing to know about Jesus: The facts and figures of His life, the names of his family, apostles, etc... It's a whole different thing to have a relationship with Jesus. A mutually beneficial and encouraging relationship takes time to develop and years to cultivate. That's the truth in our human relationships and it's true with Jesus. So, **IF** you really know Jesus, **THEN** you know about the abundant, eternal life he came to give us (*John 10:10*).

JESUS IS THE _____ AND GOD IS THE _____; WE ARE _____. 15:1,5

Picture the kingdom of God and his church as **"God's Garden."**

IF YOU _____ IN JESUS, THEN... 15:4-7

For a Christian, living a life connected to Christ is of utmost importance. It's because of Him and through Him that we can experience abundance, fruitfulness, purpose, and joy. The truth is **"apart from Him you can do nothing."**

IF YOU REMAIN IN JESUS, THEN YOU WILL _____. 15:4,5,8,16

Here is one of the most important truths that a believer can ever know; **"IF you remain in me and I in you, (THEN) you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."** (John 15:5) To be a "disciple" is to be a committed and devoted follower of a teacher. For Christians, that means following Christ. And it makes perfect sense that it's only by **"remaining in Him,"** or as some translations say, **"abiding in Him,"** that we would be able to produce the kind of fruit that brings glory and honor to God.

There are three ways of bearing fruit that glorifies God:

1. Having the fruits of the _____ shape your character. (Galatians 5:22-23)
2. Demonstrating the fruits of _____ to others. (Colossians 1:10)
3. Sharing the fruit of the _____ leading others to salvation. (Colossians 1:3-8)

IF YOU REMAIN IN JESUS, THEN SOME _____ HAS TO TAKE PLACE. 15:2,6,7

Pruning is the process of cutting away dead or unproductive branches so that the plant can devote more energy to producing fruit. In our spiritual lives, pruning often involves the removal of things that hinder our growth or distract us from our relationship with Christ. This can include sinful habits, unhealthy relationships, or even good things that have become idols in our hearts. This can and will be a painful process, as it often involves letting go of things that we hold dear or that have become a part of our identity. However, it is a necessary part of our spiritual growth and fruitfulness. As we submit to the pruning process and allow the Lord to remove anything that hinders our connection to Him, we will experience greater intimacy with Christ and increased fruitfulness in our lives. We've got to trust the process, trust the divine gardener, and trust that He knows better than we do what things need to be removed from our lives so that we can have true life in Him. And...**better now than too late!!!**

IF YOU REMAIN IN JESUS, YOU REMAIN IN HIS _____. 15:9-15

This means that we are continually drawing our strength, wisdom, and guidance from Him. It involves a daily surrender of our will to His, as we seek to live in **obedience to His commands** and follow His leading. **More of Him and less of Me.** This is an intentional pursuit of a deeper relationship with Christ through prayer, studying His Word, and engaging in fellowship with other believers.

IF YOU REMAIN IN JESUS, AGAIN THE PROMISE OF _____ AND _____. 15:7,16b

True life in Jesus involves a deep sense of intimacy and communion with Him. As we remain in Christ, we become more aware of His presence in our lives and His love for us. This intimacy with Jesus brings a sense of peace, joy, and contentment that transcends our circumstances and enables us to face the challenges of life with confidence and hope. This is not a promise of unlimited material blessings, but rather an assurance that as we abide in Christ and align our desires with His, He will provide for our needs and fulfill the deepest longings of our hearts... This process *"is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, **showing yourselves to be my disciples.**"*