

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

This week's reading in the 2015/16 reading plan includes: Leviticus 1-8; John 20-21; Psalm 1-9

Ice Breaker: Can you remember any "Chinese finger trap" type experiences where too much or misdirected active effort backfired?

1. Discuss anything that jumped out at you in your private devotions this week.
2. According to John's Gospel, spiritual fruit comes by abiding in Christ.
  1. How is fruit produced on a tree and how does this compare to how it is produced in us?
    1. Consider, in reality and in the metaphor, where the nutrients come from and whether there is an outside source vs a purely internal process.
  2. Read Psalm 1 together and consider what might be active or passive elements of fruit bearing.
    1. So what do we actively do? And what passively occurs?
3. When our prayer is aligned with the purpose of God through Christ, God acts.
  1. What is the purpose of God, as described in John 15:7-8? Name all three parts and then consider the church's mission statement.
  2. Do you see similar purposes in the Lord's Prayer of Matt 6:9-13?
  3. What tuning can you make to your prayer habits in order to align yourself with the instruction of Christ?
4. Jesus teaches us about abiding in his love so that his joy will be in us and so that our joy will be full.
  1. How do we keep his commandments in a way that glorifies God through Jesus and in a way that can be described as abiding in love and in a way that is linked to joy?
  2. Are there human rules or laws that you keep purely to keep out of trouble? How does this differ from human rules or laws that you keep out of love and gratitude and honor toward someone?
    1. Think of the 5th commandment and the promise associated with it (Ex 20:12).
    2. Does the difference between the obedience of law keeping (cf. Mark 10:17) vs the obedience of faith (cf. Mark 10:47) become clear in these examples from Mark 10? Does this shed light on how we are to keep Christ's commandments?
5. What will you actively do in order to abide in Christ this coming week?

**Sermon Idea:**

“As we make our spiritual home in Christ, He produces spiritual fruit in us.”

**Sermon Outline:**

- I. Making our spiritual home in Christ comes through living in communion with Him. (vv 1-6)
- II. Making our spiritual home in Christ gives us access to His power. (vv 7-8)
- III. Making our spiritual home in Christ means dwelling in His love. (vv 9-17)