

YOU ARE THE BRANCHES

Rev. Jeremy Simons

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.

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

(John 15:4-5, 12)

If a branch is cut away from a tree or from a vine, everyone knows that it will soon wither. It needs to be connected to the plant to live and grow. The same is true for people. They need to be somehow connected to others to live and grow. It's not that they are physically joined, but that they are connected by being near each other, by seeing and touching each other, and more importantly by agreeing with each other, loving each other, helping each other and doing things with each other. For example, children would be lost without parents or other adults to take care of them.

It is important for people to be connected to each other. It is even more important for a person to be connected to the Lord. He is the vine, we are the branches. Although we don't literally touch Him the way a branch touches the vine, we are joined to Him by keeping His commandments. When a person does this they gradually come to love Him more and more, and to feel at one with Him.

In the spiritual sense, the teaching of this passage in John is that people need to have charity so that the Lord can be present with them. All life comes from the Lord. If you are joined to Him by love and faith you will have that life, and you will grow and be regenerated.

Amen.