Remain in Christ

John 15: 4 – 11

Introduction: I remember when I was young we used to go on family camping trips. They were usually my father’s idea. We would go in into the woods for 3 or 4 days with no electricity or running water. We were “roughing it”, and living life on nature’s terms in the wilderness (the hill behind our house). After a day or two, my brother and I started to miss watching TV and being plugged in. We missed electricity. We couldn’t function properly without the power source we depend on in daily life. These days I think of all of the things I use that need power. Ipad, hand phone, computer…the list goes on. You see we need to be plugged in and we need a power source for our daily lives. Do you ever feel that way spiritually? Unplugged from the source? Today we are going to look at the Gospel of John and here Jesus teaches us how to stay plugged into the source. Or as He puts it, how to remain in him.

1. To remain in Christ we must draw on His life (vv. 4-6)

* In all of this Christ is telling you that you have to draw your life from Him.
* If you think about a tree of a grape vine, the branch doesn’t have a source of life in itself. It depends on the main trunk to bring the nutrients it needs to stay healthy. It has to find a source of life
* To remain in Christ is to find your life in Him.
  1. Two invitations: Come to me and remain in me
* To lost people living in the world living separate from God and looking for life, Christ calls to them and says come to me for life.
* To those who have come to him and found life in Him, he says remain in me.
  1. What you live from will determine what you live for.
* If a person tucks a Bible under their arm on Sunday says “I believe in Christ, He’s my source in life,” but in their life neglects their relationship with Christ and gives their best time and energy to the work place (neglecting a relationship with God and time with God, wife, family, God given responsibilities to focus all their real energy on their work or study) – is Christ really their source of life?
  1. Jesus Christ is the only truly sufficient source of life
* Jesus Christ Himself gives us life and all the things we need for fullness of life

1. To remain in Christ, we must delight in His words (vv.7,8)

* What does it mean to have the words of Christ remain in you? One of the basic meanings of the Greek word (μένω – remain, stay, continue to live)translated is “to stay in a certain place and to be at home there.”
* Christ is basically saying, If you are going to remain in me and draw life from me then my words are going to have to find a home in your heart.
  1. Remaining in His Word – Christ himself is speaking to you in and through His word (Col. 3:16) **16**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
  2. Responding to His Word – Unless our hearts and minds are filled with the thoughts and truths and words of Christ, we will be captured by the snares of the world.

1. To remain in Christ we must depend on his love (v.9)
   1. The measure of Christ’s love – “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you” (9a)
   2. The means of Christ’s love – “Now remain in my love” (9b) Don’t let anything of this word shake you and take you away from the love of Jesus for you.
2. To remain in Christ we must do as he says (vv.10,11)
   1. Your obedience demonstrates your love – The obedience that comes from love for Christ deepens your relationship with Him.
   2. Your obedience tests your faithfulness – There will be time where there seems to be an easier way. Bad fruit only comes from those motives that are not rooted in Christ. Disobedience is, at its root, an unwillingness to remain in Christ and to find life there.

Conclusion:

Remain in Christ. This is where life is. Remain in Christ. You will delight in His words and draw on His life. Remain in Christ. You will delight in the depth of His love and go to the length of his commands. Remain in Christ. You will bear fruit that glorifies God’s kingdom. If you remain in Christ, you are plugged into the source, which will never run out for eternity. Stay plugged in this week, stay connected to your source of life. This week read John chapter 15 (it’s only 27 verses!) and be filled with words of Christ and of life.

Eph. 6:23 – 24 (NRSV)

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| ‎‎23 Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith,  from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. |
| ‎‎24 Grace be with all who have an undying love for our  Lord Jesus Christ. |