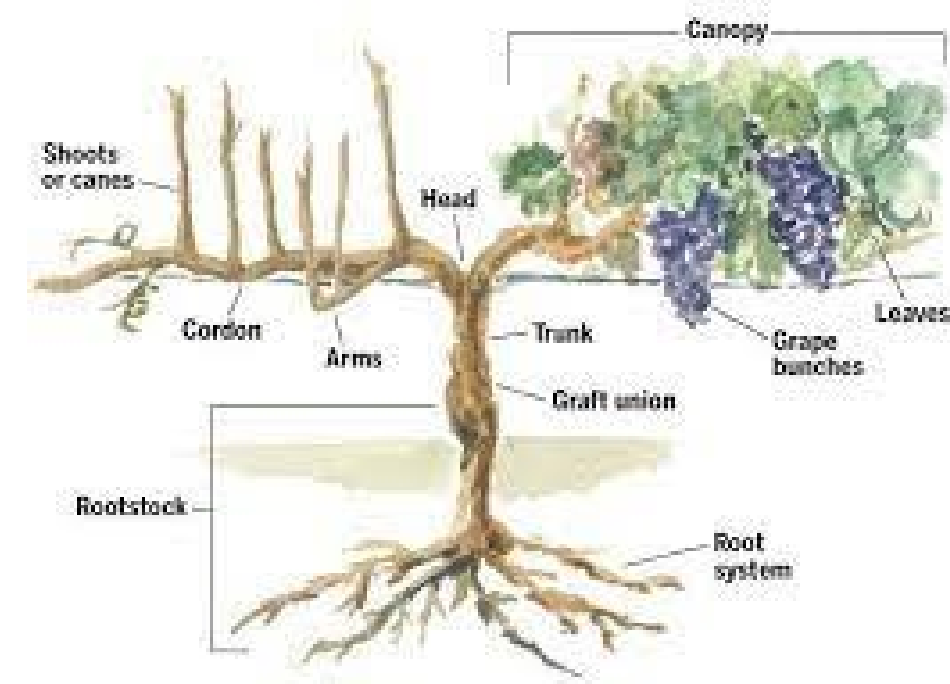
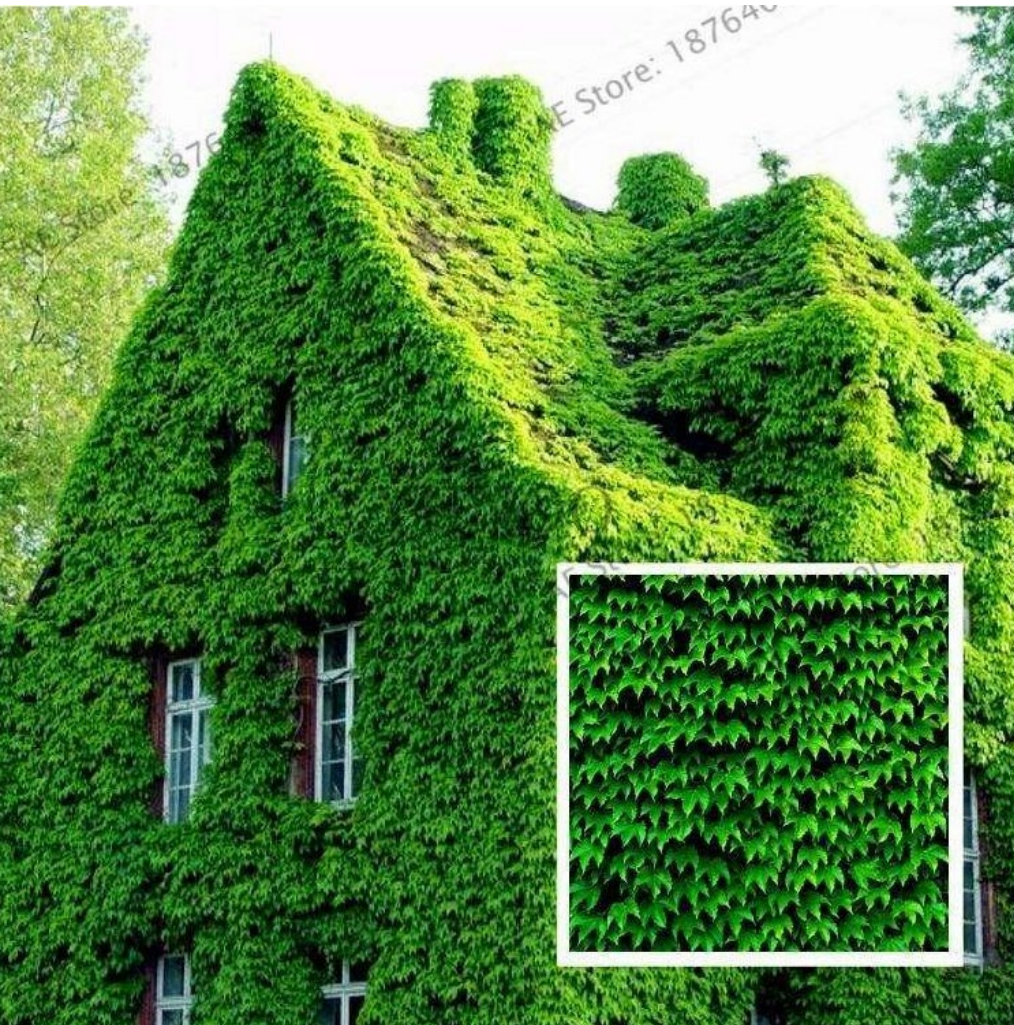


How Christians Ought to Live In, but Not of

Are you **in** the world?
Do you live as if you are **of** the world?

Download “Prayer Tents” App on your
devices. We will use it extensively today.

Vine is planted on the ground



Ugly Vine – untended, not fruitful



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In, but Not of

Main Text: John 15

Sang Sur • October 30, 2022

Enjoy the time that I am amid friends.
Trust God to encounter and transform lives.

If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 15:19 (ESV)

11And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. 14I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

John 17:11, 14-16 (ESV)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

So above all, constantly seek God's kingdom and his righteousness, then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly.

Matthew 6:33 (TPT)

Our lives on earth is to be “in” the world, though we recognize that we are not “of” it.

Intro:

- Talk about struggles
- Have someone read out above
- Pray for boldness and transformation
- Share a story – how I fight with friends on a weekly basis – consider Evonne, whom God called

Struggles with:

Education and Employment - direction, making it

Depressed, isolated, no one knows you and you have to carry the world's burdens... (effects of social media)

Peer Pressure - FOMO - missing out or not fitting in if they don't go along with the crowd, or the strongest voice in that crowd

Learning to wait - patience for God's timing

Trusting in God for the directions God has given him

Trapped in revengeful thoughts (blame, anger, bitter) toward many people who hurt me

Difficult employer and no future

Fear -- preventing taking risks and moving forward, remaining in complacency because of uncertainty

Problems to address:

- Christians are no longer influential.
 - o Rather, they are like the world, or
 - o Churchie people remain churchie – among the four walls – thinking they are holy (like the guy in Luke 18). They do not make disciples of Jesus as mandated in Matthew 28:19-20.
- Christians no longer want to take risks of moving toward the kingdom.
 - o Depth of relationship with God and others
 - o Not aiming to excel in this world to be a positive influence
 - o Settling in with the masses, such as within social media

Meaning of in, but not of:

- Not a good picture of a Christian
 - o surrounded by Christians all the time
 - o Avoids “worldly” friends and hang outs ... a loner
 - o Does not have good relationships with people at work or school
 - o (To say, people born into Christian homes are often at highest risk.... They may believe they are automatic Christians (though they must encounter Jesus on their own), and strictly live in a Christian bubble thinking everything is ok. It's not ok just because you feel ok... people need Jesus.
- A true picture of a Christian
 - o Has deep relationships with a few, as a result reaches many over time
 - Not a flippant relationship where one can easily leave the other
 - Not a facebook relationship where each person is one of the many
 - Fellowship with other believers, forming the true Church
 - o Excels in the world's standards so that their lives are influential and attractive
 - Yet, when the things do not work out, they love God and trust Him to do amazing things
 - o Demonstrates supernatural miracles – healings, resurrections, life transformations – by power of God
 - o Is Holy – different. People recognize something different about them. They are not like others.
 - o Loves God above all things. Knows the Bible and dialogues with God daily.

Jesus demonstrates how to live:

- (in) Among the sinners, the destitute, and the hurting
- (in) Having fellowship (eating together) with tax collectors and people who are unsure of where to go
- (~of) Yet, hating sin (whatever displeases God) and living to please God. Being Holy, as God is holy.

Illustration: Sniper

- Is focused on the target
- But is among others who may not have a target or cannot yet see the target
- One shot, one kill (not focused on masses)

Vine...



1. Jesus is the vine, the Father takes care of (provides everything, fills the needs of, covers) the vine
2. God takes care of those who are connected to the vine
 - Lifting and propping up the fruitless branches, or throwing away unfruitful branches
 - Pruning fruitful ones to yield even more
 - Vine not tended correctly is ugly, bulky, and we just want to get rid of it!
3. God's Word (Jesus' message) already pruned us – that is, strengthened us – IS ENOUGH!
4. So, you and I are ONE! You will NOT be fruitful unless you remain ONE with me. (It means branches—you—can fall). Do you live like your life depends on Jesus?
5. (Repeat) Jesus is the vine, we are the branches. Our source of life comes from Him. We are fruitful when the source nourishes us. (Yet, when we stop receiving nourishment, we are not fruitful).
Some of us may need to pray – “God, I am doing all I can to remain in you. Please draw near to me. Please look away from my sins, if it is due to sin, and nourish me so that I may be fruitful”
6. Separated from Jesus, we are no different than the world.
7. When we live in Christ, when our hearts are aligned with God's, we can ask it (pray), and God will grant it.
 - a. How to know God's plans for your life?
 - i. Check where God put desires in your heart.
 - ii. Inspect it against Scriptures (God's Word), if it does not conflict
 - iii. Ask God about it. See if He directs you elsewhere as you do. If not,
 - iv. With other close Jesus-lovers, ask to pray with you and share their thoughts. If they do not disagree
 - v. Check yourself again – is this heavy in your heart? Pray about it daily, and ask God to fulfill it.
 - vi. Believe until, unless God directs you elsewhere along the way (which would only likely happen as you are just beginning to build up this idea)
 - vii. If the idea grows and you are encouraged as you continue to pray for it, then believe. Only share this dream with other deep-relationship Christians. (example: Abraham, Joseph, David)
8. “When you bear” – not “if” – Remaining in Christ means you WILL have a fruitful life. If not, it is a growing delay. We need to ask if we are remaining in Him. If we are, just wait on Him. Vines...
 - Continue to grow for about 30 years
 - Don't look like they are doing much, but grow for 8 months in spurts
 - They rest from growth during the winter season to grow again in Spring
9. Let the love of God (the love Jesus is given, that is given to us) nourish our hearts.
10. Keeping God's command – refer to Matthew 22:36-40. Loving God and others is the purpose of all God's commands!
 - a. That is why you need nourishing of God's love in your heart. He must enable you to love Him and others.
 - b. As you receive God's love, then love others, you will experience joy! (v. 11). Do you have joy?
 - i. Note that the first step in knowing God is accepting His love. It is not *us loving God* first!
11. Do you want joy in your life? When was the last time you had joy? (Pause!).
 - a. Humble yourself. Lay down your burdens before God. Accept God's love for you. Then let God direct you.
12. After step one – accepting God's love for you
 - a. Love one another. In the same way I love you. (How does God love you? Deeply. Desiring a relationship with you. Want you to succeed. Is patient with you when you fail or are stubborn. Is kind to you.
4Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
1Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)
13. Can you love others even to the detriment of your health, resources, and time? It can only happen in a deep relationship with few people. Love does not happen in masses. Friends do NOT exist in social media.
 - Jesus sacrificed His life for us. Can we do the same for God? For others?
14. Friends of Jesus are those who love God and others.
15. Being a friend of Jesus means, even though He is God and Master, He relates to us in a deep relationship, drawing us to the Father. Are you a friend of Jesus?

Confused about your calling in life, or even actions you should take now? Jesus calls you a friend. He promises to reveal the desires God has for you! Do you believe this? What actions will you take?

16. It's not about us, but about Him who called us

- a. Do you get discouraged because of your circumstances today? Remember, it is not about you.
- b. He commissioned you to go into the world to bear lasting fruit! (What is lasting? Impactful, influential and it's result surviving!)
- c. Who gives the fruit? God does! It is not you. It is not something we can boast about. It is grace (see Ephesians 2)

17. Remember, "you" is plural. Fruit is borne TOGETHER, in deep relationships spurned by the LOVE of God! Therefore, Jesus tells us to "Love one another."

18-19. You are not of the world. You are of God. Your values come from God, not others.

- Who can give the right kind of "peer pressure" – or the right influence for others to follow?
 - o Do you believe it is better to be hated by the world? Would you invite others to be hated by the world?
 - o Where do you see conflicts between the values you receive from the world and from God?
 - Do you know God's values? Do you hear Him speak to you? (Or are you like the world?)
 - o **You are chosen** – it was/is not about you! (Your abilities, successes, experiences, or whatever u hold to!)
 - o Welcome bullying and other suffering (for God) ...
 - o Welcome people to Christ through relationships and shared sufferings
 - Lady at well was like that... and Jesus came to care for those who recognize they need a healer

20-21. You live an influential life (remaining in Him, following the way that the "Master" lived), and the people who would follow Him would follow you. If they hate Him, they will hate you too. **Your driver/goal is to remain aligned to Him!** Go to God for the results!

22. The Gospel / The Bible exposes people of their sins.

24. Miracles – God's supernatural encounter – also exposes people of their sins. Do you demonstrate miracles through your lives?

- How about how you will fulfill the vision God has given you? Do you envision that you will fulfill them with worldly means? Or will there be continual encounter of God, and dependence on God to come and deliver.

26. We have the Holy Spirit who

- encourages us, when we are feeling down
- is the presence of God – He walks with us, and I should encounter God daily!
- He is the Spirit of Truth. There is no wishy-washy – I believe whatever I want to believe (that's your truth, not mine!)... Truth belongs to God, and He centers us on what is true
- He will tell you about Jesus, about God, and what is in their hearts! Do you want to know the will of God? He will!
- Walking with Him, you can tell the same truths to others. Your life will be like Jesus's life!

Other ideas:

- Fruit bearing is God's idea. The dreams that God put in your hearts have been placed there by God.
For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. - Philippians 2:13 (NLT)
- "You" is plural. There is certainly an individual aspect of a communal "you," but it is to be a collective effort to grow together.
 - o Help others who are struggling in their growth (their faith)
 - o Cover others with the same love you receive. When you are fruitful, cover others who are yet to bud.
 - o When you are not-yet-fruitful, rely on other Jesus-loving brothers/sisters who hold a deep relationship with you to pray with and have fellowship with you.

Conclusion - call to commitment:

To herald at the end

Courage to take risks and ask boldly!

- What should be your life's goal? (Are you thinking big enough? – if not, maybe you need some time with God!)

God is the enabler

- love others, including our wives, enemies (bullies)
- change our circumstances to be fruitful

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*So above all, constantly **seek God's kingdom and his righteousness**, then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly.*

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John 15 (The Passion Translation) (ptents.com/s/joh15)

1“I am a true sprouting vine, and the farmer who tends the vine is my Father.

2He cares for the branches connected to me by lifting and propping up the fruitless branches and pruning every fruitful branch to yield a greater harvest.

3The words I have spoken over you have already cleansed you.

4So you must remain in life-union with me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine.

5“I am the sprouting vine and you’re my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.

6If a person is separated from me, he is discarded; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire to be burned.

7But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done.

8When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father!

9“I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. You must continually let my love nourish your hearts.

10If you keep my commands, you will live in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands, for I continually live nourished and empowered by his love.

11My purpose for telling you these things is so that the joy that I experience will fill your hearts with overflowing gladness!

12"So this is my command: Love each other deeply, as much as I have loved you.

13For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends.

14"You show that you are my intimate friends when you obey all that I command you.

15I have never called you 'servants,' because a master doesn't confide in his servants, and servants don't always understand what the master is doing. But I call you my most intimate and cherished friends, for I reveal to you everything that I've heard from my Father.

16You didn't choose me, but I've chosen and commissioned you to go into the world to bear fruit. And your fruit will last, because whatever you ask of my Father, for my sake, he will give it to you!

17So this is my parting command: Love one another deeply!"

18"Just remember, when the unbelieving world hates you, they first hated me.

19If you were to give your allegiance to the world, they would love and welcome you as one of their own. But because you won't align yourself with the values of this world, they will hate you. I have chosen you and taken you out of the world to be mine.

20So remember what I taught you, that a servant isn't superior to his master. And since they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. And if they obey my teachings, they will also obey yours.

21They will treat you this way because you are mine, and they don't know the One who sent me.

22"If I had not come and spoken these things to the unbelieving world, they would not feel the guilt of their sin, but now their sin is left uncovered.

23If anyone hates me, they hate my Father also.

24If I had not performed miracles in their presence like no one else has done, they would not feel the guilt of their sins. But now, they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

25And all of this has happened to fulfill what is written in their Scriptures: They hated me for no reason.

26"And I will send you the Divine Encourager from the very presence of my Father. He will come to you, the Spirit of Truth, emanating from the Father, and he will speak to you about me.

27And you will tell everyone the truth about me, for you have walked with me from the start."