



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

www.wcfamily.org

Volume 44, Issue 35 • August 26, 2012

A Preacher's Perspective

Fruit is the word we use to describe the production on the earth of the life-sustaining foods which we enjoy through each year's harvest. No where is the relationship between man and God more interestingly described than in Jesus' words to His disciples in **John 15**:⁴ *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will

bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain

in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. **John 15:4-8 (NIV)**

The word you may have noticed which is so often repeated in this text is the word "remain." Remaining, or "abiding," is the key to all of the life-connection

between us and Jesus. What this refers to is obedience to the commandments of Jesus. (See Jn. 14:15, 21, 23; 1 Jn. 2:3; 3:22, 24, 5:3.) Knowledge of His word and obedience to His commands is the practical standard by which we can know if we are secure in Him, if He is bearing fruit in us.

Many want to make the discipleship relationship with Jesus simply a matter of some inner profession of faith which results in standing with God which can never falter.

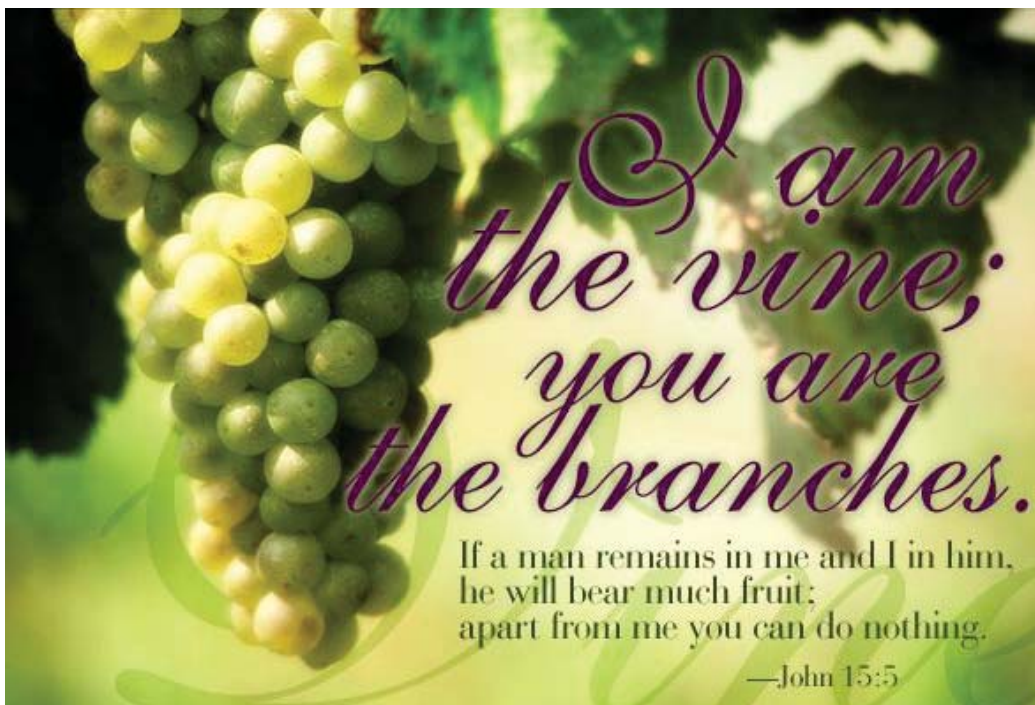
The plain reading of this text, and the whole analogy to vineyards, suggests that not all branches do remain.

Some, in fact, are cut off and thrown away. Jesus stresses again and again how vital it is for each disciple to remain in Him?

Now, I don't want to champion the idea that we are in a legalistic relationship with God. But

I believe Jesus teaches us very clearly here that we must join our wills to His commandments and that we must walk in obedience.

The wonder and mystery of bearing fruit is His. Obedience and faithfulness to His commandments is ours.



Chuck Miller

Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging. You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

Bible classes begin at 9:30 and are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. Pre-school and elementary-age children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room at the back of the auditorium. The adult class meets in the fellowship room.

Our Community Groups meet every Sunday throughout the year, except for the last Sunday of each month. The last Sunday of each month, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a time of praise and fellowship.

A weekly web-cast of our Sunday morning worship services is available by following these instructions:

<http://wcfamily.viewnetcam.com>
 Username: wcfamily
 Password: 6302312062
 Click "SINGLE" tab
 Allow any Active X controls

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Elders: Don Brewster Chuck Miller

Our Deacons are:

Justin Avey: Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
 Jay Hearn: Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
 Curt Robinson: Education, Stewardship & Leadership
 Rick Root: Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Evening (last Sunday of each month) . . . 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.



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 West Chicago, Illinois 60185
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This Morning ...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose "whole church family" it will be announced following the sermon.

Worship Order

Welcome, Announcements, Birthdays *Curt Robinson*
 Kids Connection *Brian Gifford*
 Praise Songs *Jay Hearn*
 #57 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
 #806 *Son of My Soul*
 #390 *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*
 #514 *Redeemed*
 #76 *How Great Thou Art (1,3,4)*
 #334 *'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow*
 Communion *John Pedersen*
 Prayers, Pass Emblems & Collection
 Sermon *Chuck Miller*
 #924 *Just As I Am*
 Prayer Cards *Bob Voigts*
 #186 *Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 24 Maxine Garon
 August 26 Molly Mullins
 August 29 Mike Whitman
 August 30 Jim Whitman
 August 31 Missy Day
 September 1 Chuck & Bobbye Miller (anv.)

Dates to Remember

TODAY Shannon Gifford Baby Shower
 TODAY Leadership Meeting/Praise Sunday!
 August 28 Magi Box Wrapping Day
 August 31 Mens Prayer Breakfast
 August 31-September 3 RCC Labor Day Retreat
 September 2 Community Groups
 September 2 Shults-Lewis Basket Items Due
 September 6 Food Pantry Delivery
 September 9 Magi Box Items Due
 September 14 Shults-Lewis Golf Outing
 September 15 Shults-Lewis Annual Day

Records You Helped Make

Sunday Morning Bible Class 49
 Sunday Morning Worship 79
 Contribution \$2,803.25

Nursery Workers Sandy Boyd, Kim Sitler
 Collection Counters Mike Henkel, Paul Mullins

In Our Prayers...

Sue Lake, Marion's sister-in-law, is having serious issues with her liver. She is on the list to receive a liver transplant. **Sue's mother, Nola**, has diabetes and has a sore on her leg that is not healing.

Rose Stirrup, Kelly Ieler's mother, had cancer surgery recently. She is doing well.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman – Bobbie Whitman's brother
 Justin Avey
 Paul & Judy Bertrand – Lynette Root's parents
 Herman Biggers – Josephine Haggerton's brother
 Nancy Brewster
 Bob & Phyllis Cissne – Cindy Drumheller's parents
 Chris Czernik
 John Day
 Al Dorsey
 Doug Dorsey – Al's son
 Brad Fowler – Joan Lockett's nephew
 Rachel Goodman (Jinkerson)
 Josephine Haggerton
 Lauren Helton – Josephine Haggerton's nephew
 Kathy Huml – John Pedersen's sister
 Mason Hutchins – friend of Alec Boyd & Rourke Mullins
 Pat Johnson – Dana Howard's aunt
 John Mark Lango, son of former members
 Keith & Kim
 Debbie Lawrence – Bobbie Whitman's niece
 Don Lemley
 Anne Librande – Joanne Johnson's mother
 Jack Lockett – father of Charlie, Mike, Julie Chavez, Shelley Prosser, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen
 Mike Lockett – Joan's son
 Joan Mullins – Paul's mother
 Josh Otte – Chris Czernik's nephew & the son of Marion Lake's cousin
 Helen Plummer – the mother of Joan Avey and Cliff
 Scott Robinson – Curt's brother
 Jose Oلمان Santeliz – Mission Lazarus
 Kay Schrader
 Phyllis Sitler
 Bruce Snyder & Cindy Stewart – Bob Voigts' cousins
 Ernie & Rose Stirrup – Kelly Ieler's parents
 Jim Whitman
 Bob York

Moms-to-Be:
 Lauren Avey – Justin & Joan's daughter-in-law
 Katherine (Lemley) Garner

Armed forces:
 Josh Aultman – Bobbie Whitman's grand-nephew, Afghanistan
 Ryan Gleason – Dana Howard's nephew
 Kristen Hauser – a friend of the Avey's, Afghanistan

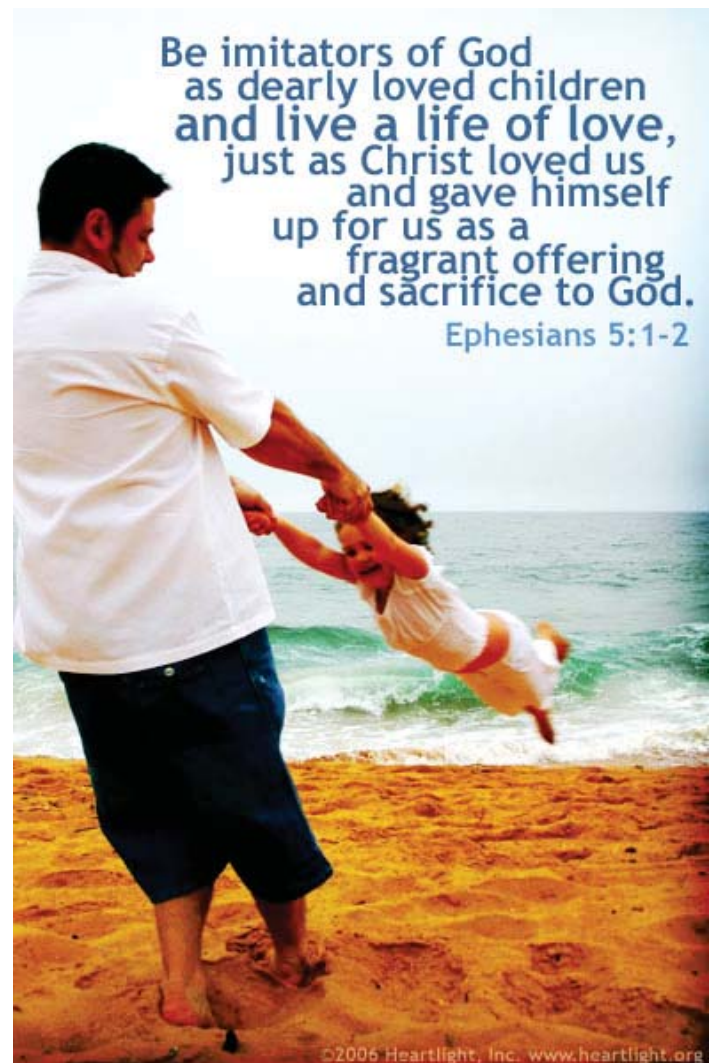
Jacob Headtke – U.S. Marines, RCC alumni
 Taylor Mathews – Mike's middle son
 Joey Wertz – the friend of Lynette Root's friend, Iraq
 Jonathon Young – a Warrant Officer in the army

Missions:

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico
 Obadiah Doka – Nigeria
 Living Room Café – Chicago
 Mission Lazarus – Honduras & Haiti
 Shults-Lewis – the teens, their families, the workers
 Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt – Taiwan
 Teen Parent Connection - West Chicago
 Joe & Allison Voigts – Korea
 Students of Joe Voigts – China
 Ayodele Waleola – Nigeria

Tuesday Ladies Class

The Tuesday Morning Ladies Class will begin on **September 18 at 10:00 a.m.** Pat Brewster will be leading lessons on "God's People and the Holy Spirit." Please see Pat if you plan to attend the class so she may order a book for you.





Today is Praise Sunday!

9:30 a.m. Bible classes
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Noon-ish Gifford Shower
 (see below)

4:30 p.m. Leadership meeting

6:00 p.m. Worship/Singing/Finger-food/dessert fellowship

Baby Shower

Ladies are invited to a Baby Shower Luncheon in honor of Shannon & Levi Gifford. It will be held in the fellowship room today right after worship. See Joan Avey or Barb Voigts with any questions.



Shults-Lewis Annual Day

Shults-Lewis Annual Day is Saturday, September 15. We have several opportunities for you:

1. **Gift baskets to be sold in the auction.** Please sign up in the foyer to donate items to go into the baskets. **You may also give a monetary donation to Lynette Root.** A couple of items that would be really nice to include are two iPods. A basket is available in the foyer for your items. **Deadline for items to be at the building is Sunday, September 2.**

2. **Western Photo Booth:**

We will offer several costumes & props for visitors to wear to have their photo taken. We need Country & Western, cowboy/girl, "damsel-in-distress"



items for background, props and costumes. Please see Sally Hearn if you would like to help with this effort. P.S. A saddle would be wonderful!

3. **Quilts and afghans** hand made to be sold in the auction are usually a big hit. Questions, see Lynette. **The Golf Outing is Friday, September 14.** You may register online at www.golfinvite.com/shultslewisfall.

School Supplies

Another family who visits our food pantry needs school supplies. Please see Sally if you would like to help.

Teen Parent Connection

Teen Parent Connection will be meeting on **Mondays** this year starting September 17. Please let Sally know if you are willing to provide meals.



RCC Labor Day Retreat for grades 7-12 is this coming Friday, August 31, through Monday, September 3. Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Camp concludes after the closing program on Monday which begins at 10:00 a.m.

WINTERFEST 2013 – February 15-17, 2013

The Magi Project

Healing Hands International will pick up Magi Boxes in October. There are several ways you can help put together a Magi Box. Monetary donations can be given to Frances or Sally.



1. Sponsor contents of a box \$13
2. Sponsor shipping of a box \$7
3. Sponsor contents of a box, plus shipping. \$20
4. Donate items for contents of box. **Check the sign-up sheet in the foyer.**

Important dates:

Tuesday, August 28: wrap boxes around 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday, September 9: donated items are due
 Tuesday, September 11: sort items – get ready for packing
 Sunday, September 16: packing event – 6:00 p.m. –
 devotional, pack boxes, finger food fellowship

Sign Language

A huge thank you to Maxine Garon for the great classes! Sign language class videos are available on YouTube. (Search YouTube for "ASL class by Maxine Garon.")

Baby Shower Gift Basket

Benjamin & Katherine Garner (Lemley) are due to have their baby boy in mid to late September. Don and Theresa will be traveling to see them and we would like to prepare a gift basket for them to deliver. Please have your gifts to the building by Sunday, September 16. They are registered on Amazon.com. Questions, see Joan Avey.

