



CONNECTION

September, 2016

“Joy-Filled Disciples of Jesus”

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:1–11 ESV)

Jesus wants us to experience the fullness of His joy, to abide in His love, to bear much fruit and prove to be His disciples. We want those very same, wonderful things. Jesus is the vine, and we want to be connected to Him as branches. We receive life from Him. His words abide in us, and, when we keep His commandments, we are surrounded by the Lord's love.

We grow as disciples when we draw near to worship the Lord, when we read and meditate on His word, when we spend time in prayer, and when we serve others. On the Lord's Day, we seek to worship in spirit and in truth through singing, praying, and hearing God's Word. This fall, we plan to include a moment for disciples as a part of the worship service. We will read a question and answer from the New City Catechism as a means us reminding us of the key truths taught in Scripture. We have chosen this catechism because it is relatively short (52 questions), and a brief answer for children is embedded in the answer for adults. There are also some nice supplementary resources online at www.newcitycatechism.com.

Each week, we will also include one key passage of scripture. There are several Bible verses that every Christian should know. It would be great if some of us would try to memorize some of these verses.

I pray that our worships services will be honoring to God, and that He will bless us as we gather in His name. I hope that, in this new element, we can be reminding ourselves of the most important Bible verses and the most important teachings of the Christian faith. May the Lord's Word abide in us, that we might abide in Him as joy-filled and fruitful disciples!

Yours, in Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave".

Pastor Dave

Men's Bible Study

The Men's First Saturday Bible Study will meet on September 3 at 9:00 am in the church Lounge. We have been having a very rewarding time discussing the book of Hosea. This month, we will cover Hosea chapters 9-10. Come and join us as we learn together from God's Word and pray together for God's blessings.

Upcoming Sermons

September 4

Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Guest Preacher: Dr. Jim Samland
James 1:19-27

"Potential and Practice"

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1:22–25 ESV)

September 11

Acts 2:42-47

"Growing as Christians"

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42–47 ESV)

September 18

Ephesians 5:22-33

"Husbands and Wives, Christ and the Church"

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph 5:31–33 ESV)

September 25

Ephesians 6:1-9

"The Blessing of Godly Teaching"

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:1–4 ESV)