
I AM

WEEK 3 – I AM THE VINE

Knowing Jesus is a way of life
not simply a DECISION.

I AM
[ego eimi]

I...exist
I...happen
I...am...present

John 15:1-8

¹ “**I am** the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also 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 you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are 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 done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

FRUITLESSNESS is not the failure,
failing to REMAIN is.

“The Father’s pruning knife, then, severs not the weak or faltering believer from His Lord, but the branch which has already inwardly entirely severed itself from the life giving (and fruit-producing) flow of the vine.” – Dr. Joseph Dongell, Asbury Theological Seminary

John 13:10

Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.”

How we remain determines who we BECOME.

:: Believe He is God’s Son - 1 John 4:15

:: Receive Him as Savior & Lord - John 1:12

:: Do what He says - 1 John 3:24

:: Continue to believe - 1 John 2:24

John 14:13-14

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 15:9-17

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each

other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

SO WHAT?

What do you need to do NEXT to remain in Him?

NOTES:

I am

“Jesus invites us to abide in his love. That means to dwell with all that I am in him. It is an invitation to a total belonging, to full intimacy, to an unlimited being-with.”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life.
In Your name, Amen.***

For Further Reflection:

:: Identify one thing the Lord has been teaching/re-teaching you through the “I AM” series.

:: Reread/Review John 15:1-8.

:: What stands out to you most in Jesus’ words?

:: What is most meaningful/challenging about the vine & branches metaphor for you?

:: Discuss some of the implications of Jesus identifying himself as “the vine.”

:: How might those things impact the way we live or relate to him today?

:: What are tangible ways we can “remain” [abide] in him as the vine?

:: Pastor Shawn said, “How we remain determines who we become.”

:: How do you see this truth play out in Scripture?

:: How have you seen this in your personal journey?

:: How does the idea that the Lord brings about fruit as we remain change the way you look at success?

:: What is one thing Jesus is inviting you to do next because he is...I AM?

:: Identify 1 person you can ask to pray for you as you step out and do that.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – March 30 & 31, 2019

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