

Attached To Community

John 15:1-8

1. Intro

1. Jesus was speaking to His disciples; His community.
 1. The grapevine illustration shows both intimacy and fruitfulness.
2. We are called to remain in Him (5)
 1. He is the central vine; He is the life sustainer
 1. A branch connected to the vine also has the potential to produce fruit.
 2. Jesus and the Father are connected in the same way. He is setting the example for us. (John 14:10-11)
3. The spirit and character of the community is dependent upon how we stay attached to the vine
4. We can stay attached to Him in several ways.
 1. Through the Spirit, Baptism, Service

2. The Spirit

1. In the OT, *ruach*; and in the NT *pnuma*, are words used to identify, Spirit, wind and breath.
 1. Spirit is the essence of God himself (John 4:24)
 2. Wind is expresses the movement of God working in human history.
 1. Noah, Red Sea, Moses (Quail), Jonah
 3. Breath shows the promise of God's communion and communication with those who hear His voice and follow Him. (John 20:22)
2. God is intentional.
 1. His Spirit moves within and upon this earth.
 1. In creation – the Spirit hovers over the waters (Gen 1:2)
 2. It indwells believers – which affects our world. (John 14:16-17)
3. He moves with power.
 1. He told Nicodemus that no one sees the wind, but you see the effect of the wind. (John 3:7-8)
4. He opens up ministry, calling us to follow.
 1. Jesus breathed upon the disciples (John 20:22)
 2. The Spirit was sent in power on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:4)
5. The Spirit keeps us, as community, attached to the Vine.

3. Baptism

1. Sometimes we see community as optional
 1. I have a personal faith in Christ. True, but that does not mean it is individual.
2. We are baptized into Christ and joined with His body. (Rom 6:3-4)
 1. Every believer passes through the water to become part of the river of life; part of

community.

1. Alone you are only a puddle.
2. Together we are an oasis, where people can come to drink.
3. With baptism we celebrate as a community.
 1. We rejoice as we baptize a person.
 2. We commit ourselves to this person.

4. Service

1. The vine is a perfect example for service.
 1. There is a central vine that all of the branches are connected to for life support
 1. We are connected to Christ.
 1. "In Christ"
 2. Yet each branch is connected in a unique way.
 1. Each of us has unique gifts and talents and fit into the community in a certain way. (1 Cor 12:4-6)
2. Jesus said that apart from Him we could do nothing (5), but if we abide in Him we would bear much fruit.
 1. We are living branches joined together in ministry.
 2. We are fused together as we take up the task of servanthood.
 3. Servanthood is the practical expressions of God's love coming from our hearts to a lost and broken world.
3. What makes you stick to community?
 1. Do you come to church because it is your cultural responsibility?
 1. What if you felt no responsibility, would you still come?
 2. I believe that one thing will make us stick to community: Serving others.
 1. If a person is just being served, most likely they will not be long-term.
 3. Serving others with others is where we begin to make a connection. (1 Peter 4:10-11)
 4. Serving others will bring about your needs being met.
 5. The community is organic and moves with the Spirit
 1. That Spirit does not dwell in structures, programs or methods, but in people.
 2. The people, as community, has life in the Vine.

5. Conclusion

1. Jesus is the Vine; the sustainer for us.
2. Our community has a certain spirit and character
 1. For that spirit and character to develop we need to stay attached to the Vine.