

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Fruitful Discipleship (Acts 2:42-47)

Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

How did Jesus step into that power?

Luke 4:1-14*

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John 15:1-13

Bearing fruit appears to be **very important** to Jesus and the Father

Vs. 2, Pruning doesn't produce more fruit. Pruning produces **more branches**.

- **More branches produce more fruit**

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Matthew 28:18-20

As you go about the business of living life, **make more branches** among all people, everywhere, from wherever you are to as far as you go.

Picking Blackberries in our park

- Do you care **which branch** you pick from?
- **I Cor. 12 & Eph. 4**

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Make more branches among **all people, everywhere**

All people groups!

- Because **all people are of equal value**
- All are **made in God's own image and likeness**

God's original commission to Abram

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Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Which people would we devalue or disregard – even kill?

- Those too young, or too old?
- Those of another race, belief system or political persuasion?
- Maybe even another faith?
- Or someone still stuck in their sin?

John 3:17

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In today's tribalism, any difference is reason enough

- Many seem to be eagerly looking for people to condemn

Nothing is more unlike Christ

He came to draw inside, those who were outside

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How does He empower us to make more branches?

- If you sign up **you WILL be pruned**
- Because your branch, and mine are **not enough!**

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He said, "I've given you an example you should follow"

He said, "As the Father sent Me, I also send you"

He said, "You will be evidence of who I am"

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Since the Reformation and Gutenberg, we've made discipleship primarily **Informational** – not

Relational

- The affirmation of knowledge
- Instead of Living together – **John 17:20-23**

There are too many who know plenty, but **don't live like Christ**

- They know much and may not **KNOW** Him
- Many **claim His name** and **shame His name** by how they live

Are we guilty of **valuing people** like God does?

Of treating them like Jesus does and why He does?

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The other major post-reformation flaw is

Individualism

- While we must receive forgiveness and salvation personally

- Christ only redeems people **INTO** His Body
- There are **NO Lone Rangers** commissioned by Him

And when we become **part of who He is...**

- We value others enough to **sacrifice ourselves** for them
- So they can **become fruit bearing branches** with us

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Acts 1:8 – Power of The Spirit to be **His Witnesses**

- That doesn't mean the ability to talk about who He is
- It means the **power to Live like Him**

Witnesses actually means Martyrs

Demonstrating who He is by **living sacrificially for others**

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Acts 2:42-47

We live like He showed us (**John 1:18 & 20:21**)

And **He adds more fruitful branches**