

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Discipleship Pruning

Convictions we hold as absolutely true

- Non-negotiable
- Before any circumstance or question

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Is God good?

- Regardless of what He does, or doesn't do
- Whether we understand or not

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John 15:2

"Every branch that bears fruit **He prunes**, that it may bear more fruit."

- Pruning produces **more branches**
- **More branches bring more fruit**

In My authority, as you live life **bring out more branches** among all people everywhere, wherever you are, as far as you go. (**Matt. 28 & Acts 1**)

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Do we live to bear "Jesus" fruit?

God will prune us

- Do we **trust** Him?
- Will we **let** Him?
- (Remember Jonah)

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Jesus is looking for new branches (Zacchaeus, **Luke 19**)

- Unlikely branches
- Who get pruned (**vs.8**)

He finds more unlikely branches (Levi, **Mark 2:14-15**)

- Who He joins in his environment

- Which leads to more new branches

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We are looking for new branches (**John 1:45-49**)

- Start with who we know
- We bring them to Jesus

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He expands their view (Samaritan woman, **John 4:1-42**)

- He shocks cross-cultural person
- He violates His disciples' boundaries
- She tells who she knows
- They become branches

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He cuts off what He gave us (**Acts 10:9-48**)

- He confounds our disciplines
- He calls us to obey without conditions
- He sends us across cultural lines
- More new branches sprout

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He doesn't give us what we want (**II Cor. 12:7-10**)

- He calls us to embrace what we didn't want
- He gives us something we wouldn't ask for

We discard what we obtained on our own (**Phil. 3:4-15**)

- We discard them as worthless
- We value nothing above Christ and His will for us
- We leave it all behind, our future newly defined

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As a landscaper, I was asked to shape many plants the **previous owners** intended well for, but **didn't know what they were doing**

- The key is **when** and **where** to make the cuts
- Previous bad work can be overcome

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John 15:1

*"I am the true vine, and **My Father is the vinedresser.**"*

He knows what He's doing

*Yield to His hand – **we will become more fruitful***