

John 51 - Commandment of Love and Death

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John 15:12-17

Vine & Branch

Review

Christ is not just repeating Himself for emphasis;
He is presenting *old* doctrine in a *new* paradigm
as He repeats His **Commandment**:
"Love One Another"

Metaphor of Vine and Branches

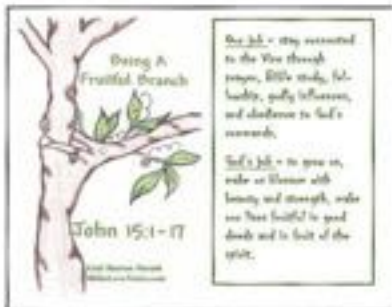
- Vinedresser - Father
- Vine - Son
- Sap - Holy Spirit
- Branch - People: Church
 - Believers - Pruned
 - Unbelievers - Removed



There is something hidden in plain sight in this analogy that Triggers the Hagiazō Process and separates the Lost from the Saved

This is Why Christians Fail

- Graphic teaches branch has Free will - Common
 - Branch decides if it can abide with the vine
 - Vine dependent on choice of the branches
- Christians fail because of bad theology - Ignorance



John 15:1-11 does NOT teach that the branch has causality; i.e., free will
Such teaching ignores true causality of separation

Total Dependence on the Vine

- The branch is totally dependent on the vine for sustenance to produce fruit, which is its function
 - The dependent branch (Saved) has independent aspects which sprout and must be pruned to produce much fruit (Hagiazo Process)
 - The independent branch (Lost) is rejected by the vine becoming a dead branch fit only for burning; these are removed so new branches can be grafted into the vine

Love Commandment Lesson

Christ repeats His Commandment:
"Love One Another as I have Loved You"
He concludes His lesson with:
Obedience to the Commandment
Enables them to, "Love One Another"

Another Paradigm Change

- No greater love can He demonstrate than dying for His friends
- Lost will scarcely die for a person demonstrating some form of rightness {as man defines} (Ro 5:7)
 - Lost may dare to die for a good person {as man defines}
- Christ died while we were sinners, hostile to God (Ro 5:8)

*Those Christ died for were neither good nor righteous as defined by God
Yet, He died for sinners to make them His friends for eternity*

New Covenant Change: Relationship

- Christ is redefining His relationship to believers
 - Those who keep His teachings {Commandments} outwardly demonstrate their inward salvation
 - Since Christ and the saved share Father's nature {new creation} there is a change in intimacy {Vine & Branch}
 - Change in relationship: Slave to Friend
 - Moses (He 3:5)
 - Christ and believers (He 3:6; Ro 8:15)

Difference Between Slave & Friend

- Major difference in relationship {intimacy} between slave and friend: (1 Pt 1:10-12)
 - Slave does not know the mind of the master; slave just needs to do what he, she, is told {Angels} (He 1:14)
 - Friends are brought into the inner councils in order to more clearly carry out the plans of the Father (Jo 4:1-7)
 - We are friends because we are *adopted* sons of God

*This does not imply a casual, careless relationship
Christ is Lord and God and we are the work of His Hands (Jo 4:6-8)*

Free Will Destroyed

- Christ clearly teaches no one chose Him (Free Will)
 - Sinners do not choose God as they are in rebellion against God: Sinners will never choose God (Ro 5:10)
 - It is Christ who chooses us as instructed by the Father before Creation (Sovereignty) (Ep 1:3-10)
 - Election process occurred before man existed, declared righteous; but, salvation occurs at its appointed time by the Father based on the Son via the Spirit (Job 1:6; 42:1-6)

Even Peter's declaration that Jesus was the Messiah was not of his own doing
Christ declares that it came directly from the Father alone (Mt 16:15-17)

All Fruit Belongs to Christ

- Christ clearly states that any fruit produced in a Christian's life belongs to Him: He works through us
 - Christ allows us to share His glory; if, we decrease and He increases - Antithesis of self-works (Jo 3:30; 2Co 12:9)
 - The only fruit that remains is produced by Christ via the Spirit through us (Charisma) (1Co 3:10-15; 12:1-11; 2Co 5:30)
 - If we resist, quench, the Spirit our fruit does not abide (Ep 4:30; 1Th 5:19; 2Ti 1:6-7)

Thus, whatever we ask, pray, for in Christ's name is not of us but of the indwelling Spirit
Of course, the Father will answer all such prayers; however, much of our prayers come from the flesh
(Ro 8:14-17, 23-27)

Christ Commands Us to Love

- Christ teaches the Apostles, and we also, will be able to Love One Another only by obedience to His command
- Thus, the command separates:
 - Saved from lost
 - Maturing from those refusing to mature in Christ
- Obedience to the new nature of God (salvation) is impossible to the flesh; it is the work of the Spirit in us

Commandment Awakens Sin

- Without the teachings of God (Commandments) sin would remain hidden
- Commandment-Teaching demands a response
 - New nature: Yea (Ro 13:11)
 - Flesh (sin): Nay



Commandment/Law and Sin (Ro 7:25)

- Paul's teaching on the relationship between Law & sin
 - Law refers directly to the Ten Words (Moral Law)
 - Can also include all Christ's teachings as He desires us to exhibit Father's nature in all things - Maturation
 - Sin is not external to us; it abides in our flesh which wars against our new nature, and Spirit, after salvation; Two-natured: Torn between flesh and new nature (Ro 1:5-8)

Reflects Mega and Micro History

- Paul reflects man's history (Mega) and each saved person's maturation (Micro) in this passage
 - Christ created Man and Woman in *Innocence* - Flesh remained dormant until...
 - Each person born in *innocence* - Sin remains dormant in the flesh: Dormant until...
 - Flesh/Sin awakened by the Commandment - Rebellion

Why Give the Commandment?

- Bible states God gave commandments, all teachings, to develop a people for the Father for eternity (Truth)
 - Did God create evil when He created the flesh? No!
 - God cannot create evil (Ja 1:13-18)
 - Man was to control his fleshly impulses— Sin (Ge 4:6-7)
 - God Commanded: Do not eat of Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil or you will die: Flesh rebelled (Ge 2:15-17)

Commandment Revealed Sin

- Once God gave the commandment *The Accuser* (Satan), already condemned, tested man and awakened sin
 - Paul's example: Last Word, Covetousness, root of man's sin expressed via Pride of Life & Lust of Eye and Flesh
 - Once awoken, Paul discovered Covetousness in his thoughts, words and deeds (Sin came alive - he died) (Ro 5:12-14)
 - Rather than man control flesh; flesh controlled *Everyone*

Without Commandment No Death

- Without the commandment there was NO death; however, neither was there a sharing of God's nature
 - Man would have remained distant from God - Slaves
 - Neither would there have been any generations of men
- Commandment revealed difference between God's will (righteousness), Christ, and man's will (fleshly weakness), Cain (Ge 4:6-8; Ro 6:18-22)

Paul's Lament: Sin Remains

- Post-salvation Paul laments that sin remains with him
 - With his mind, his new nature, he serves the Law of God; i.e., sees the Law as a measure of his maturation
 - However, his flesh refuses to obey his will, or the Spirit's will, though only the Spirit can control the flesh (Ro 8:7-10)
 - Lost cannot, do not, want to control their flesh (Cain)
 - Saved cannot control their flesh; attempts to do so end in failure as expressed in Paul's lament of powerlessness

Paul's Realization of Victory

- Paul's realization of victory came when he surrendered in utter defeat of his failure to do God's will: Ever
- Jesus Christ in him is his only deliverance from sin
- Paul acquiesces to the reality of self in this life
 - His new nature, is to rest completely in Christ (Mt 11:27-30)
 - Flesh always rebels unless controlled by the Spirit (ICo 13:9-12)

What is Christ Teaching?

- Christ is teaching His Apostles, and thus us, that:
 - The Commandment, "Love the Brethren," is impossible to do in our own strength; flesh too strong
 - Learning Christ's (Bible's) teachings points to the true secret of showing this outward proof of inward life
 - Only by decreasing in self and increasing in Christ, and Spirit, is it possible to love anyone (Charisma)
 - Demands of love beyond our ability, not Christ's (ICo 13:4-8)
This will only be possible after Pentecost when the New Covenant begins
Christ laying the framework for what many still struggle to accept today.
Complete dependence on Father, Christ and Spirit: None on Self