

“WITH”: REIMAGINING THE WAY YOU RELATE TO GOD A STUDY OF “WITH” BY SKYE JETHANI LESSON 6: A LIFE WITH GOD

I. God has had a plan all along; He wants to be with us. Consider these book ends:

The Beginning: Gen. 3:8

The “Ending”: Rev. 21:3

II. God models that plan in the relationship displayed in the Trinity. Consider John 14:9-13

“And so we should not be surprised to discover that when God desired to restore his broken relationship with people, he sent his Son to dwell *with* us. His plan to restore his creation was not to send a list of rules and rituals to follow (LIFE UNDER GOD); nor was it the implementation of useful principles (LIFE OVER GOD). He did not send a genie to grant us our desires (LIFE FROM GOD), nor did he give us a task to accomplish (LIFE FOR GOD). Instead God himself came to be *with* us – to walk with us once again as he had done in Eden in the beginning. Jesus entered into our dark existence to share our broken world and to illuminate a different way forward.” (p. 101)

The goal is not to use God, the goal is God!

III. Treasuring, uniting and experiencing

A. **Treasuring:** What is your treasure? What is the goal and desire of your life? What would you give everything to possess.

Ps. 42:1-2 “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”

B. **Uniting**

2 Cor. 5:18 “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation”

Eph. 2:16 “and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”

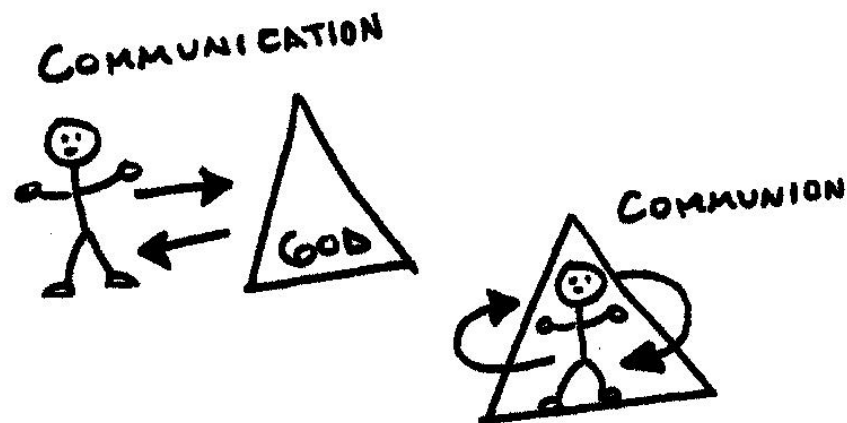
Col. 1:20 “and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

C. **Experiencing:** utter dependence!

“Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It’s a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don’t want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel.” (John Piper) (p. 109)

“It is more than a vehicle to rescue us from death, it transports us into the arms of life.” (p. 110)

It is so much more than communication (prayer/Bible reading). It is communion.



IV. Consider Jesus’ explanation in John 15

A. Introduction

John 15 – What’s the setting? Three suggestions:

1. Still in the upper room, cup of wine or vine in the window.
2. On the walk to the Mt. of Olives, thru Kidron Valley, east side of Jerusalem; vines, branches burning on side of road.
3. In court of the temple, vines over temple gate.

B. The Vine – the Lord Jesus

The vine, the true (not as opposed to the false, but meaning that which is real, perfect, substantial).

Not a new thought, the illustration was used throughout the Old Testament.

Psalm 80:8 “And didn’t cause it to take deep root”

Isaiah 5: “My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill and he fenced it and gathered out the stores there and planted in with the choicest vine...and he looked that it should bring forth grapes.”

Hosea 10:1 “Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself.”

Jeremiah 2:21 “I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?”

C. The Husbandman

Not a vine dresser, but the proprietor

King Uzziah was called one in 2 Chron. 26:10 and Noah in Gen. 9:10

God is the owner, as SM Lockeridge says:

God doesn't have to put his laundry mark on the meadow, HE OWNS IT...

God doesn't have to brand the cattle on a thousand hills, HE OWNS IT...ETC.

D. The Branch

This is the only place this Greek word is used in the New Testament. It means a limb or shoot as if broken off (comes from a verb which means to break).

1. It emphasizes the idea to receive from the root and stem sap and nourishment.
2. The branch has nothing, it just depends upon the vine for everything.
3. The life of the branch is one of the deep restfulness:
 - a. I have no care, my cares are His. I have no fear, He cares for all my fears.
 - b. The life of the branch is a life of close communion.

E. The key to this passage is verse 8

“Herein is my father glorified that you might bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Christian discipleship implies progress/growth

F. The Fruit

It is not discipleship! It's the character, the life itself of Jesus Christ. He imparted this nature to us (Col. 2:9-10). The process is going on now (2 Cor. 3:18). The complete fulfillment will come (1 John 3:2).

Discussion Questions

1. How is the Trinity a template of our relationship with God?
2. Honestly, what do you treasure? What implications are there regarding that treasure? What can we do about it?

3. What can you take away from the John 15 discussion? What is the “job” of a branch?
4. What is the connection between n the Fruit of the Spirit and living with God?