

Grace Group Questions

02-10-2019 – John 15:1-3 – The Vine and the Branches

REMINDER: The purpose of our Grace Groups is to help our church family mature in our love for the Lord and each other. We seek to do this by 1. Practical Sermon Application 2. Practicing the One Another's 3. Providing Care 4. Praying Together 5. Pursuing Discipleship. These questions are simply a tool to help you achieve these purposes. You will notice that these questions are structured according to the three basic principles of Bible study - observation, interpretation, and application.

1. **Sermon Passage:** Read John 15:1-11

- What was the main point of Sunday's sermon?

- Can you outline the sermon?

2. **Observation – What did you hear?**

- Identify each of the metaphors in John 15:1-2 (vine, vinedresser, branch, fruit, prune).

- Read Ps. 80:9-16; Is. 27:2-6; Jer. 12:10, 17:1-21, 19:10-14; Hos. 10:1, 2. What insights do you gain from these passages as they relate to the metaphors in John 15.

- Scott mentioned two types of *fruit* that can help identify a true believer. What are those two types and how are they different?

3. **Interpretation – What does it mean?**

- **John 15:2 - 2** *Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away...* Scott mentioned the interpretive challenges found at the beginning of 15:2. What does “*in me*” mean? What does “*he takes away*” mean?

- What does the “*fire*” in 15:6 represent? Does this passage teach that one can lose his/her salvation?

- What are some of the ways God applies the pruning knife in the in the lives of His children? In other words, how is this pruning manifested in the life of the believer?

4. **Application – How does this apply?**

- How would you answer a friend who is convinced that he/she can be a Christian even though they bear no fruit? How would you respond to that same friend who uses this passage as a ‘proof text’ to suggest that Christians might forfeit eternal rewards but still be welcomed into heaven.

- How has God's *pruning* in your life helped you become more like Christ?

- Read Hebrews 12:5-13. How does this passage help you better understand God's pruning process?

5. Prayer ...