

# What's C4 All About?

**John 15:5-8**



*"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. ." - John 15:5*

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**Main Point:** God put us here to engage the community and make the power of Christ felt where we live. There are some key principles to keep in mind that enable us to make an impact on our culture.

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Have you ever played Pokemon Go or bumped into someone else trying to "catch 'em all?"

How has the church disengaged from culture, and what consequences does that carry?

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**Have a Volunteer Read John 15:5-8.**

Growing and harvesting grapes was and still is a profitable enterprise in Israel and the audience of Jesus' day were familiar with the process. Jesus used the vineyard to illustrate the importance of staying connected to God if we want to continue making an impact for the Kingdom. The same principles Jesus points out in keeping a vineyard healthy and effective can apply to our church if we desire to engage our culture today.

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The first principle to follow to engage culture is **THE PRINCIPLE OF RELATIONSHIP** (v. 5).

In today's culture, what people or things are we feeding off of or looking to for life?

What does Jesus say we must feed off of to remain healthy spiritually? How would you say you are doing that personally?

The vine comes before the branch. The branch grows when the vine gives sustenance. What does Matthew 6:33 say happens when we follow God's lead? What tends to happen when we follow our own lead instead of what God desires?

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The second principle to follow to engage culture is **THE PRINCIPLE OF PRODUCTION**. (v. 5-6)

Jesus says in Matthew 7:20 "By their fruit you will recognize them." What does this mean in the context of the vine and the branches?

What kind of fruit can we expect to see from a person who claims to follow Jesus? A church that is attached to Him?

What should be our production goal as a believer? As a VGroup? How can we take steps to achieve that goal?

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The final principle to follow to engage culture is **THE PRINCIPLE OF PURPOSE.** (v. 7-8)

If you had to summarize what our one purpose as a church is, what would you say? Explain.

What are the implications of verse 7? What kind of impact could we have on our campuses, in our community, through our care and in our civic process if we united under this truth?

Jesus was preparing the disciples for his departure and through His entire ministry His chief ambition was to bring the Father glory. How would the disciples, and now you, carry on His legacy?

Rick Warren wrote in his book Purpose Driven Life, "You cannot fulfill God's purposes for your life while focusing on your own plans." What plans have you been focusing on recently that caused you to lose sight of God's purpose?

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**Pray:**

As you close your time together pray that God would build VillageChurch around the principles of relationship, production, and purpose as we seek to change the Blythewood community for His Kingdom. Ask God to begin revealing to you what part you will play in the ministry of His church so that we can produce disciples of Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us focus and raise up leaders in each area of the C4 ministry.

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**Connect:**

Read the Parable of the Yeast in Matthew 13:33. Consider how this relates to our role as a church in today's culture and our community. Are you the yeast, or the flour?