

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

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 -

Where was your favorite place to build a fort when you were a kid? What kind of forts do we build today?

Are you a member of any clubs or exclusive organizations? How do we allow church to become a club?

All too often churches are being diminished to a social club or a safe haven for Christians. But God calls us to be and do so much more. If we are called to engage our culture on every level we must be connected with the life giving power of Jesus Christ. Without Him we can do nothing, but with Him we can make an impact on this community and in the generations to come.

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

In **John 15:1** Jesus says, "I am the *true* vine." In today's culture, what imitations are we feeding off of or looking to for life?

By telling us He is the 'vine' and we are the 'branches,' what type of relationship does that imply? Do you feel like you are getting it right in that sense?

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? How does this relate to our church and its ministries?

The second principle 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, or a church that is connected to Him? See Galatians 5:22-23, and Acts 2:42-47 for insight.

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

The final principle 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?

Read **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**. What does it mean to “regard no one from a worldly point of view?” How does v.20 describe those who follow Christ and their purpose?

- What implications do these verses have for us when considering our purpose is to engage culture? What message do we have to offer while doing that?

Apply It:

Verse 7 says, “Ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.” How can this belief impact our effect if we choose to pray for our community and our influence within it?

What fruit have you been producing personally? If someone brought evidence against you, would their be enough to convict you of being a Christian? Could they prove you are a disciple of Christ?

Pray:

Pray as we work through our C4 Series that God would show you where He wants you to serve and engage the culture around you. Ask Him for clarity in your spiritual gifts and allow the Holy Spirit to move through your thoughts and life. Pray for opportunities to share the message of reconciliation.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

VGroup Fair: Sept 10. Meet VGroup leaders and sign up for Fall semester

Balloons and Tunes: Friday September 22nd 6-8pm at Doko Meadows. Sign up to volunteer in the worship lobby!

Discovery Class: October 22nd