

# REMAIN IN ME...

John 15:1-8 • April 18, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

April 3-4, 2010.....	“I Am The Resurrection” (John 11:1-44)
April 11, 2010.....	“God Blesses Those...” (Matthew 5:3-12)
April 18, 2010.....	“Remain In Me” (John 15:1-8)
April 25, 2010.....	“You Must Be Born Again” (John 3:1-21)
May 2, 2010.....	“When You Pray...” (Matthew 6:5-15)
May 9, 2010.....	“Seventy Times Seven” (Matthew 18:21-35)
May 16, 2010.....	“My Burden Is Light” (Matthew 11:28-30)

**RED LETTER WORDS**

**John 15:1-17 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup> “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

<sup>9</sup> “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup> You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)** <sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

**Galatians 5:19-21a (NLT)** <sup>19</sup>When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.

## Two Main Truths:

1) God wants every follower of Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_

- In the story...
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is the grapevine/trunk/roots.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ is the gardener.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ are the branches.

- See Galatians 5:22-23 and Galatians 5:19-21a to help gain a better understanding of what kind of “fruit” God wants us to produce.

***God wants us to live a life with as little sin as possible and where our actions are in line with the teachings of the Bible and our character mirrors Jesus’ character.***

***We play a part in producing fruit (remain in Christ) and God plays a part in helping us produce fruit.***

### God’ Part Includes...

- a) God \_\_\_\_\_ every branch that doesn’t produce fruit (verses 2 and 6).
  - See Matthew 7:15-23 for additional teaching.
- b) God \_\_\_\_\_ the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more (verse 2).



**Matthew 7:15–23 (NLT)** <sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. <sup>16</sup> You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup> On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ <sup>23</sup> But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’”

**John 15:4–7 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!”

**Luke 9:23–24 (NLT)** <sup>23</sup> Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. <sup>24</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

**1 John 1:8–10 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. <sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

[www.otterbeinchurch.org](http://www.otterbeinchurch.org)

2) We have to choose to \_\_\_\_\_  
if we want to produce fruit.

- See John 15:4-7

What does it mean to “Remain in Christ?”

a) Remaining in Christ \_\_\_\_\_  
to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

b) Remaining in Christ means we will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and His teachings instead of living life the way we think is best.

- See Luke 9:23-24
- It means we live our life saying...
  - “It is not about me today. It is about You.”
  - “It is not what I want for my life today. It is about what You want for my life today.”
  - “Whatever you ask me to do, I will do it.”

c) Remaining in Christ means that we will honestly deal with our own \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_  
confession and do our part to overcome sinful behaviors.

- See 1 John 1:8-10

*God doesn't expect perfection. He does however want us to confess our failures (sins) and work on overcoming them so we do them less often.*

**What do you need to do  
in response to today's message?**