

Close Encounters Of the Christ kind

HOW AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD



Argyle Community Church Autumn 2019 Sermon Series

An encounter with the disciples

John 15:1–17

ACC AUTUMN SERMON SERIES 2019

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE CHRIST KIND



Spiritual power



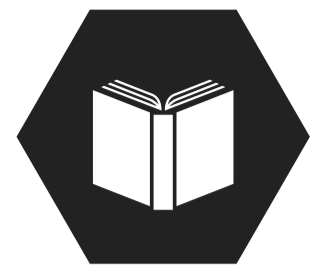


What is Jesus' main concern here?

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no **fruit** while every branch that does bear **fruit** he prunes so that it will be even more **fruit**ful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear **fruit** by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear **fruit** unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much **fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much **fruit** showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear **fruit—fruit** that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other. | John 15:1 – 17



Jesus' desire for his disciples...

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be **even more fruitful.**

John 15:2

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear **much fruit...**

John 15:5

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear **much fruit,** showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:8

I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and **bear fruit—fruit that will last...**

John 15:16



WHAT IS FRUIT?

**Fruit is godly words and actions.
Living a fruitful life is living the way
Jesus did.
Fruit is what we think and say and do
as a result of our heart-trust in God.**

**“All the good motives, desires, attitudes,
words, deeds, springing from faith, in
harmony with God’s law, and done to his
glory.”**





WE NEED SPIRITUAL POWER

IN ORDER TO BE SPIRITUALLY FRUITFUL



How to get power? Remain in Him

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The vine & the branches

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5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. | John 15:4–5



MEANING:

to stay, remain, live, dwell, abide, continue to be present, to be in close and settled union.

SAME WORD AS IN:

Luke 1:56 “Mary abode/stayed/remained with Elizabeth for three months.”
Luke 19:5 “Zaccheaus, make haste for today I must abide/remain/stay in your house today.”

μένω

REMAINING IN CHRIST:

“Includes being in union with him, sharing his thoughts, emotions, intentions.”

J.C. RYLE:

“Cling to me. Stick fast to me. Live the life of close and intimate communion with me. Get nearer and nearer to me. Roll every burden on me. Cast your whole weight on me. Never let go your hold on me for a moment. Be as it were rooted and planted in me.”



Remaining in Christ means: remaining dependent



John 15:4-5

Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. Apart from me you can do nothing.

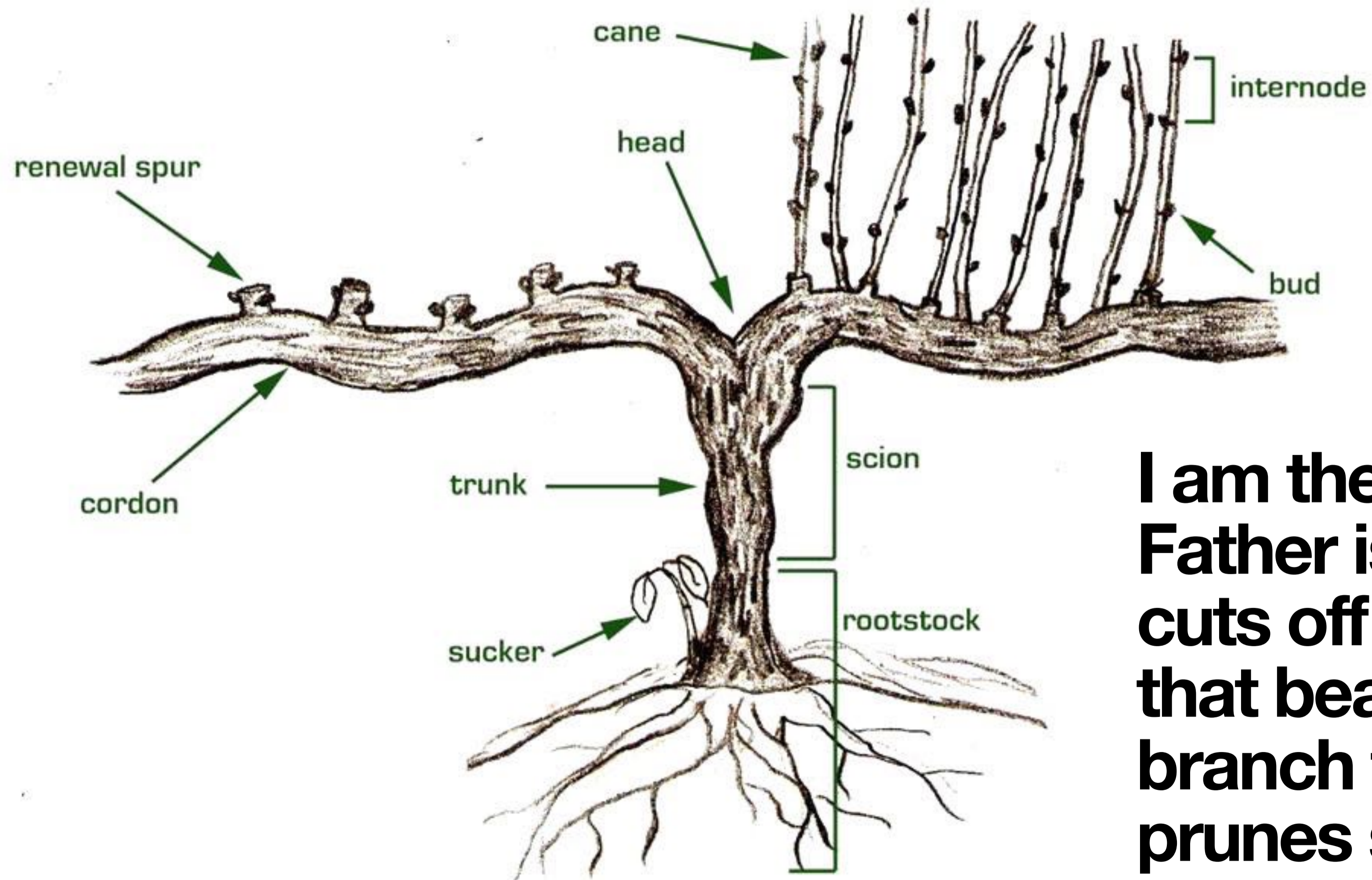
Living as a sheep not a shepherd, as a child not as a parent, as a student not a teacher.

“Am I the new man in Jesus, clueless-I-know-what's-best, trusting Jesus knows best and will sovereignly deliver what's best for Dave, who lives curious and expectant to see what Jesus does next, in Dave, others, circumstances, A.K.A. ChildlikeDave?”





PRUNING



I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. | John 15:1–2



Dependence means accepting pruning





Remaining in Christ means: remaining in his words



John 15:7

If you remain in me
and my words
remain in you, ask
whatever you wish,
and it will be done
for you.

**What we read and take in to our
minds, remains with us, affects
us, moulds us, shapes us.**



Remaining in Christ means: remaining in his love



John 15:9,10,12,17

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

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Remaining in Christ means: remaining in his love



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**Love &
Obedience
linked
together**

**Jesus's desire for his disciples is fruit bearing.
To bear fruit we need power.
To get power we remain in Jesus.
Remaining in Jesus means:**



Remaining dependent



Remaining in his words



Remaining in his love

