

Connect

Connect to Christ

September 6, 2020 / Chris Johnson

What is the most important thing a pastor does for his church?

²⁸ Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. **Matthew 11:28, NIV**

Don't view your time to connect with Jesus as a _____ you _____ for him. It's an invitation to _____ in what Jesus has _____ for you.

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 fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **John 15:1-3, NIV**

My connection to Jesus isn't just about what I can _____. It's about what I can _____ as I bear the _____ of faith. My heavenly Father loves me enough to prune those things that _____ from me so that I can be more fruitful.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. **Galatians 5:22-23, NIV**

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. **John 15:4-6, NIV**

This kind of fruit is only _____ by my connection to Jesus through his Word and Sacraments.

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. **John 15:7-9, NIV**

God's _____ for our _____ of branches (believers) is to create _____ to share the fruit of Jesus' love with others.

MEMORY VERSE

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 15:5, NIV

My next step: I will connect to Jesus on a daily basis by resting in his Word so that I can fulfill his purpose of bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.