

Sermon Title: Abiding in Christ / The Relationship of Believers in Christ

Sermon Text: John 15:1-8

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearers to trust and obey through difficult times just ahead.

What does the bible say about difficult times?

Introduction: There are no questions that fear and fighting against the coronavirus and the resent deaths involving two black men (*George Floyd in Minneapolis and Ahmaud Arbery in Atlanta2020*) have stirred up many people in the our nation. It appears to me there are two battles going on simultaneously; if not at the same time. One is a fight against and invisible enemy (*the coronavirus*) and the other is physical (*one man or men killing another man*). Injustice and unrighteousness is a work of Satan and the curse of sin. According to the Bible murder is a result of sin and only solution to the sin problem is Jesus. Genuine believers are have been delivered out of sin and death and given the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to tell people about Jesus, if there is even going to be any change taking place in the hearts of men. Sin lives in the heart of all men because all have sin. What is happening currently in our day is no different than what was happening during Jesus final days on earth. Things were heating up. Sin was alive and well, Judas had gone out from amongst the other disciples in order to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. There was going to be the murder of an innocent man, but this man was going to die for the unjust, so that he might bring us to God being put to death in flesh but made alive in the spirit (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus gave His life for sin, what are we as Christians in America giving our lives for? What are we living for in these last days? And What does Jesus say to His followers when things are starting to heat up? Are we living consistently by the truth declared by Christ, directed by Christ and demonstrated by Christ?

- I. **Genuine Branches live by the truth Declared. Vv. 1 - 3**
- II. **Genuine Branches live by the truth Directed. Vv. 3 -7**
- III. **Genuine Branches live by Demonstrating the truth. Vv. 8**

Sermon Proposition: There are three truths that Christians must live by in order to prove they are the real followers of Jesus.

- I. **Genuine Branches live by the Declarations of God. Vv. 1 - 3**
 - A. The “I AM” statement.

B. This is the last of 7 claims to deity in the form of “I AM” statements by Jesus in the gospel of John (see 6:35; 8:12; 10:7,9; 10:11,14; 11:25;14:6).

NKJ John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

NKJ John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

NKJ John 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

NKJ John 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

NKJ John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

NKJ John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own.

NKJ John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

NKJ John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

II. **Genuine Branches live by the truth Directed. Vv. 3 -7**

A. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16).

B. Believers are set free by the Son of God (John 8:31-36).

C. Obey the Word of God and abide in Christ and don't prove to be a Judas branch.

D. Stay with Jesus, continue with Jesus, and remain with Jesus. Vv. 4

E. Be dependent on God and bear fruit for God not the devil. Vv. 5

F. Don't prove to be a Judas branch. Vv. 6

G. Continue in Jesus and in God's word. Vv. 7a

H. Ask what you desire. Vv. 7b

III. **Genuine Branches live by Demonstrating the truth . Vv. 8**

How do you demonstrate you are abiding in the truth?

A. By abiding in Christ. Vv. 8a

B. By bear much fruit. Vv. 8b

C. By demonstrating we are true disciples of Christ. Vv. 8c

Conclusion: How can you tell genuine branches from Judas branches? One branch continues in faith, obedience, prayer, and bears fruit for God and the other does not.