

2021-05-02 ... 10am Worship Together ... Revd Sam Johnson

John 15: 1 – 8

Do you like fruit ... What is your favourite fruit?

Do any of you grow things in the garden ... what have you grown? Just a reminder of course that there's the plant sale!

Have any of you ever grown fruit ... strawberries, raspberries? Etc.

We have some raspberries in our garden at the moment – it's quite a sturdy bush having moved around the country with us! It's a funny plant – maybe it's just the type it is but it has these really long stalks each year that die off and then new shoots come the next year, leaving last years in place but growing past them, stronger than before.

Today's passage from the Bible is Jesus talking about how he is like the vine.

Do you know what a vine is?

What's a vine ... What grows on vines? Yes, grapes ... So ... fruit.

This Bible passage is telling us two important things:

1. That God love us, he wants to be involved in absolutely everything we do, and we should be "remaining in him" as in praying and talking to him ... If one of these grapes fell off the stalk whilst it was growing what would happen to it? (***inter-active discussion on the fact it would wither and become like a raisin***).
2. That God wants us not just to drop off like that, but also for us to bear fruit.

Now are you a fruit tree? You're not? Oh – well how are you going to bear fruit then? What might the fruit Jesus talks about be? Any ideas?

Converts? More followers of Jesus? I think that might be the case yes – being followers of Jesus is something to be celebrated. So how might we bear this fruit? (***congregation inter-action***)

By telling others! That's right – you can tell others about how much God loves them and they too can come to know him, and be a part of the vine.

There is another kind of fruit talked about in the Bible – '**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.**' (Galatians 5:22)

What might this fruit mean? Let's start with:

Love – not hate

Joy – not just happiness, but a deep seated feeling of contentment

Peace – not war

Patience –

Kindness – not nasty-ness

PTO

Goodness – not bad – not evil

Faithfulness – back to staying close to God, to abiding in him!

Gentleness – not being harsh or sharp

Self-control – thinking about how we behave and act.

All these things are the fruit of the Spirit – God’s Holy Spirit – his helper in our hearts and our minds and if we stay close to God, we should, with the help of God’s spirit – try and show this fruit in our lives.

What might that mean?

We are told here in the Bible to remain in God and to bear much fruit – to live a life filled with the Love of God, and to share this love with others.

Amen.