

Creekside Community Church
Lessons from the Vineyard: John 15
October 9th, 2016
Jeff Bruce, Associate Pastor

Lost Connection

1. How We Are Connected to Jesus

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." (John 15:10)

Union

Communion

2. How We Can Lose Our Sense of Connection

Unconfessed Sin (Matthew 6:14; 1 John 1:8-9)

Unresolved Anger (Matthew 6:15; Ephesians 4:26-27)

An Uncaring Attitude (1 Peter 3:7)

An Uncompassionate Heart (1 Corinthians 11:27-32; 1 John 3:14)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What friendships did you have early in life that you assumed would, "*last forever*"? Which friendships lasted? Which didn't? Why?

Going Deeper

3. Jesus says that if we keep his commandments, we will abide in his love (John 15:10). Jesus' love (or, our experience of it) is – in some sense – conditioned on our obedience (see also Jude 20). How does this square with John 15:9, and other passages which testify to the constancy and unconditional nature of God's love for us (e.g. Romans 8:1; 35-39; Ephesians 2:8-9)?
4. What is union with Christ? What images do the New Testament writers use to explain our union with him? What is communion with Christ? Why is our communion with Christ based on our union with him?
5. Why is it critical for us to appreciate the difference between union and communion? What happens if we overemphasize union with Christ, and neglect communion with him? What happens if we overemphasize the importance of communion with Christ, and neglect to remember our union with him?

Application

6. Jeff mentioned four ways we can lose our sense of connection to God; (1) unconfessed sin; (2) unresolved anger; (3) an uncaring attitude towards one's spouse; (4) an uncompassionate heart towards God's people. Which of these resonated with you the most? Why? Which of these surprised you the most? Why? Have you ever experienced a lack of connection with God as a result of one of these? If comfortable, share your experience with the group.
7. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?