

February 20/21, 2021
THE WAY: Embracing the Adventure of Becoming a Disciple
The Pursuit of God

John 15:1-11

Josh Rose, Teaching Pastor

(Sermon fill-in notes and Scripture references)

With-ness is a relationship of mutual pursuit.

“Everything is made to center upon the initial act of ‘accepting’ Christ (a term, incidentally, which is not found in the Bible) and we are not expected thereafter to crave any further revelation of God to our spirit. We have been snared in the coils of a false logic which insists that if we have found Him, we need no more seek Him.” - A.W. Tozer

Mark 3:13-15

¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons.

“Remember, you are a human being, not a human doing.” - Pastor Chip Whitman

Jesus wants you before he wants anything from you.

John 15:1-11

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not **bear fruit** he takes away, and every branch that does **bear fruit** he prunes, that it may **bear more fruit**. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴**Abide** in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** by itself, unless it **abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides** in me and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not **abide** in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you **abide** in me, and my words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit** and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide** in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will **abide** in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and **abide** in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

With-ness means letting Jesus find all of you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** by itself, unless it **abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in me. - John 15:4

With-ness is the energy source of a disciple.

If anyone does not **abide** in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. - John 15:6

With-ness is the way to wholeness.

“To be little with God is to be little for God” - E.M. Bounds

With-ness precedes and propels witness.