



Sermon Series: Who Are We? Identity in God Belonging – John 15:1-17 Sunday 9th Feb 2025

Pray

In the sermon Tim mentioned 'drive-in' churches: you park up, hear some uplifting worship, inspiring teaching, grab a donut & coffee, then drive off. Discuss the good things and the less good things about this sort of church.

Read John 15:1-17

Introductory questions if you have time...

[Background info for interest/help: The vine or vineyard was an image used in the OT (e.g. Isaiah 5) to describe Israel (the people of God). Usually it was used negatively to describe their lack of fruitfulness (e.g. Isa.5:2).]

1. In what way is Jesus the 'true vine'?
2. What does it mean to be 'in Him'?
3. Why would we want to be in Him?
4. How do we know if we are in Him?
5. What do you think Jesus means in v.7?!

Cut to these questions if you need to be quicker...

6. How does the imagery of the vine and branches help us understand our connectedness as Christians/church?
7. To what extent do you *experience* this (connectedness) to be true in our church? [you might want to discuss different elements of church life and the ways they contribute to this or detract from it]
8. 'Because we all belong to Jesus, we all belong to one another' (from Sunday's sermon). Why is this sense of belonging to one another absolutely vital to our spiritual lives? [cf.v.9-12]
9. Read v.10-12 again. What is Jesus' motivation in commanding us to love one another?

10. When have you experienced joy in loving others?
11. How can we develop our sense of 'belonging to one another' at our church? What are the obstacles to this?
12. V.13 sets a high bar for what it means to 'belong' or love one another. Where does this hit home for you individually or for us as a church?

If you have time for even more...[v.14-17]

13. What encouragement is there in these verses for those who don't feel good enough?

Tim Lewis