

**"The Secret to a Fruitful Christian Life."
John 15:1-11 (Sermon Questions)
Pastor Curt De Graaff**

Ice breaker: What is your favorite thing about the Iowa State Fair?

Premise for the text: We must eat the fruit of Christ to produce the fruit of Christ.

Question: What was Curt trying to say in this statement? How do we "eat" Christ? (Note: Check John 6:52-58 for insights.)

Question: How do churches and believers fall prey to being so focused on "doing" that they forget about "being?" What does that even mean?

On the subject of pruning the branches from verse 2:

Pastor Curt shared this insight: God goes to great lengths to remove branches from His vineyard that are self-help branches.

Question: Where do we see a self-help brand of ideology penetrating the evangelical church? How do we personally fall prey to that thinking?

Question: How has God been pruning you in your life? What is He using to do that? What is He trying to teach you?

Curt talked a great deal about performance-based acceptance (or approval addiction). Take time to define it again and then answer; "Where do you find yourself struggling to fight this problem in your life?"

Discuss this main principle aloud: If this vine-branch metaphor teaches us anything, it is that the branch doesn't produce the fruit--the vine does (vv. 4-5). What are the implications of that for us?

Question: Which of these three descriptions of abiding, given by our text, do you most need to apply to your life?

To abide is to feed our souls from His Word (vs. 7)

To abide is to rest in His love (vs. 9)

To abide is to find our security in His joy (vs. 11)