

## **Bloom where you are planted**

John 15:1-11

Have you ever noticed that when you plant something in the ground it grows where you planted it?

Once a seed is planted in good soil you water it and allow it to be nurtured by the sun that seed begins to grow. It grows out from the ground and it is cared for by continued water and nurturing from the sun and other things.

Eventually that seed will grow into the plant it was meant to be.

Whenever you take a seed and plant it in the ground, given the correct conditions - it will grow.

It is also true of us - that we are meant to grow where God plants us.

So the question some may ask is - Why is it that so many Christians fail to flourish in the church and in life?

1. Anyone can just visit a church and not be planted there.
2. Anyone can just attend a church and not be planted there.

**Being planted means that you are identifying with the ministry and mission of that particular community of faith through which you want to serve God.**

1. Being planted in a church means that you tithe to that church, you serve at that church, you help others in the church, you listen to the spiritual leadership of the church.
2. Being planted in a church means you value the church, the leaders, and each other just as a plant values the ground, the oxygen, the sun, and the water.
3. It means faithfulness and loyalty to God and to His church.
4. To be faithful to something means to be steadfast in affection and allegiance

So, another question can be:

What does it mean for you to be a Christian?

1. Does it mean, perhaps, the comfort of knowing that you are on God's side?
2. Does it mean being part of a wider community of people who are mutually dependent and supportive?
3. Does it mean being part of a world-wide community of people who share a love for and who worship the one God?
4. Does it mean having roots and connections that you wouldn't otherwise have?

Well, being a Christian might mean all of those things to different people, but none of them is at the heart of what Jesus says it means to be Christian.

Here in John 15 Jesus begins to teach his disciples what it means to be one of his followers, now that he is leaving them as he mentioned in chapter 14.

He says the whole point of being one of his followers is to bear fruit to the Father's glory. In fact, he says if you don't bear fruit, there's something wrong.

He begins with the statement that he is the true vine.

What does it mean when Jesus says He is the true vine?

This means that there are other claims being made about vine which were false. And Jesus in this allegory is not saying that natural grape vines are false vines. They are truly grape vines. But the comparison isn't being made between Jesus and grape vines, but of a false vision of Israel.

The Old Testament often compares Israel to a grape vine. And in many cases, such as in Isaiah 5:1-2, it is in a negative way. The vineyard which Yahweh planted was supposed to yield sweet grapes. But the grapes went wild and sour. Israel had become false to Yahweh.

So Jesus' use of the word vine was to ground his presence as essential to the growth of the disciples.

He if we are going to bloom, we have to be grounded and connected to Jesus – the true Vine.

Note that Jesus said, "Apart from ME, you cannot do a single thing - Because the branch that is cut off from the vine withers and dies and is gathered with the other dead branches to be burned.

The relationship between Christians and Jesus is essential.

Loyalty and faithfulness imply a steady unwavering course in love and allegiance coupled with a firm and deep conviction to support that thing. It is a steadfastness in God and the church that always results in God's blessings in the lives of those who are connected

The church is not only a social meeting place. It is much more than that. It is a place for us to be nurtured so we can grow and build the kingdom of God.

So, God in His infinite wisdom has planted us in His church. That means if God planted us here, the expectation is that we all called to will serve God faithfully for the reasons He has planted us here.

1. If we are planted here then we need to blossom and bloom
2. When you plant a seed, if it has all the right ingredients, it is going to grow and bloom.

I have had to deal with a lot of farm workers, and they tell me that conditions have to be right for the crops to do well.

**But when a seed becomes disturbed it fails to grow correctly.**

1. Seeds can be disturbed by the wind, or by birds coming and eating the seed, or the rain can wash the seed away, or the sun can burn the seed up.

**And sadly, there are things that can disturb a person's growth in a church**

1. Break down in relationship
2. Gossip and news carrying
3. Lack of trust in the leadership
4. Moral failure
5. Hypocrisy
6. They are not finding community and friendship

However, I believe that If you are properly planted in a church and are properly feed by the Word of God, you will grow, and if you grow you will bloom where you are planted.

There is an importance to this message because it speaks to each person's individual connection with God.

But Sadly, in many churches today, there are people who are failing to bloom.

1. They just visit church, they just attend and they are not committed physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
2. They attend church because their parents did or grand parents did or overtime, it became a tradition that they do.
3. People attend because it makes them look good in the community.
4. Or they do so because they can ease their conscience of any and all religious obligations.

### **1 Peter:10-11**

- 1. All have Christians have received gifts. No one receives these gifts as their own, we are but stewards.**
- 2. God intends all to use the gifts we have be given**
- 3. We have been empowered**
- 4. This is to the glory of God**

God provides a way for the fruit to be displayed. It is displayed through the gifts and talents that God enables all of His children with

Everyone has been given gifts and talents from God to use to build church and community and to glorify His name.

There is no exception to this rule. Everyone has something to offer.

Sadly, there are so many around who feel they have nothing to offer, and instead of blooming, they just lay there in the soil, never blooming and blossoming into what God intends them to be.

We have many different opportunities to offer ministry and mission in our church and in our community.

But, it really comes down to one thing, it comes down to our relationship with God and how we understand that relationship.

Are you connected to God?

If our relationship with God is where it should be, then the potential that is within will come to the fore as we release our fruit into the world which we live.

We all have different amounts of spiritual health within us and we are all at different growth levels in God. Those things grow and expand as we spend more time with Him personally and corporately, that is within the church.

The more time we spend with God in prayer, the more we grow, the more we are strengthened and the more we are encouraged.

I want you to think for a moment today about the gifts and talents you have received from God.

Maybe you have not even recognized yours yet. Remember we all have been given something. The Bible tells us so.

God has place you here for a reason and He has enabled you for a purpose.

Lets go bloom!