

Questions for Conversation

061420

In past weeks, we talked about salvation as justification, redemption, and reconciliation. This week was union with or participation in Christ.

- What nuance does this dimension of salvation add? How is our understanding of salvation improved or expanded?

Really scary question (you may want to skip): People should be given time to quietly think about it, even if answers aren't shared.

- Where would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 is "I am fruitful and remaining in Christ" and 1 is "I'm not sure when the last time was I even thought about being fruitful."

When Jesus talks about bearing much fruit, we often think he is talking only (or at least mainly) about evangelism. What other fruit could he be talking about that is important to see in the life of a Christian?

When Jesus says that apart from him we can do nothing. What does he mean? If it means absolutely nothing, how does this apply to non-Christians (who are apart from him) who do things (go to work, eat, etc.)?

- If what Jesus is saying is that apart from him we can do nothing of eternal significance, how does that impact your understanding of this passage?

Talk some about Jesus' statement on joy.

- How is related to or different from happiness?
- Have you experienced his full joy? When? What was it like? Is this connected to things going well or poorly or is it not connected to earthly things at all?

- What does this joy look like in the midst of covid and the civil unrest we are experiencing?

What are some steps to remaining in the vine? How are those going for you?
What can you do this week to improve your “abiding”?

Share concerns and joys and pray for one another.