

Divine Life Cycle

Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

- A. Jesus loves the world, helped thousands and trained a few. We are to do the same.
- B. Jesus' works were redemption and the training of men. (John 17:4; 19; 15)
- C. Long term objectives can only be met in terms of short-term objectives.
- D. We have been chosen that we might bear fruit. (John 15)
- E. Text: Matthew 13:36-38, John 12:24-26.

II. We are "seeds." If you are a child of the king Jesus, you are a seed among other things.

III. Jesus is the farmer.

- A. The seed does not choose where it gets to go.
- B. The farmer decides where the seed will go.

IV. The field is the world.

V. Unless the seed dies, it abides alone. If it dies, it bears much fruit.

- A. Death means to relinquish control.
- B. We have to be open-handed about our possessions, activities and relationships.
- C. The man of the cross does not have a selfish career plan.
- D. Every test one passes simply qualifies him for another test.

VI. The seed that dies forms deep roots. (Isaiah 37:31)

- A. Fruit is a result of relationship with Christ. (Romans 7:4)
- B. We must develop our secret life with Christ.

VII. The seed bears life. (Mark 4:28)

- A. The process is as important as the product.

B. There are no shortcuts to fruitfulness.

VIII. One bears fruit in season. (Psalm 1:1-3, Jeremiah 17:7-8)

A. Every believer has his or her own season.

B. It is a mistake to compare fruit with other Christians because everyone is in different seasons.

IX. Seed. (Genesis 1:29)

A. Your fruit becomes someone else's seed.

B. We cannot play junior Holy Spirit when someone we love is called to "die."

Application questions:

1. How does the seed illustration help us to see that we are not in control of our ministry?

2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

3. What areas of your life may God be calling you to die to yourself? Spend some time in prayer and write your reflections below.
