

Christ- The Power of the Christian Life

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 15:4-5.

B. Jesus is the hub (the source of power) of the wheel of our Christian life.

II. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.

A. This is objective truth, whether or not we have experienced it or believe it.

B. “In Christ”, “In Him”, or “In the Lord” is used often by Paul to mean that our relationship with Christ is organic and living.

1. Our spiritual life flows from Christ. (2 Peter 1:4)

2. We are united to the living Christ.

III. If you remain in Jesus, He will remain in you. Apart from Him, you can do nothing.

A. Jesus wants us to experientially abide in Him.

1. To do this we must renounce our own merit, our own wisdom, and our own strength and receive these things from Him. (Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:13; Colossians 1:28-29)

a) We are completely bankrupt in ourselves.

b) We can meet any challenge in the Christian life in Christ.

B. We are completely dependent on Christ. However, there are four ways we tend to live the Christian life.

1. We live the Christian life in our own strength from a to-do list from a high degree of self-confidence.

a) There will be little fruit in our own character from this.

b) There will be little impact in others’ lives from this.

2. We live the Christian life trusting in God to do the work through us without any effort from ourselves. This lacks personal responsibility that the New Testament encourages. (Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:12-14)

3) The “Lord, help me” approach to Christian living is carried out believing that we can do some of the Christian life on our own, but we need God’s help for part of it.

4) The Biblical approach is to realize that we are responsible to live the Christian life, but that we must rely on Jesus to be content. I am both 100% responsible and 100% dependent on God. (John 15:4-5)

Application questions:

1. Which approach that Jerry discusses under point III-B do you find yourself most tempted to live from? Why do you think that is?

2. How does realizing that you are 100% dependent on Christ for strength allow you to take greater personal responsibility for your life?

3. In the first part of Jerry's teaching, he explains that we are not mechanically united with Christ, but rather organically united with Christ. How does this perspective change your perspective on your relationship with Christ?
