



First United Methodist Church of Hanford  
*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



505 N. Redington Street Hanford, CA93230  
559-584-4075 (voice) 559-584-5438 (fax)  
office@fumchanford.org http://fumchanford.org

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you.” John 15:1-8

*Imagine a green fruit that ripens in a box in a refrigerator so that it arrives on time at the consumers' table as if it were freshly harvested and even with a certain aroma of fresh fruit... Imagine a family waiting for a food box in line at the doorstep of a community center while millions of families are in their quarantined homes eating, watching TV and sleeping... Imagine hundreds of animals walking the streets of the border towns to the mountains and forests while no one walks the streets... Imagine most authorities in different countries of the world calling on the population to stay at home. The #stayathome hashtag is trending on different social networks around the world...*

The word “remain” is one of the words that the Gospel of John uses the most to speak of Jesus' relationship with his disciples and Of God's relationship with Jesus.

The Gospel of John in the allegory of the vine uses the same image of the grape plant to illustrate the text: it begins with a key word (vine), from which another (branch) arises, to which another follows (fruit), and so on, as the vine of the same plant is entangling new ideas: Jesus is life, God is the one who cultivates it, the disciples branches. God assures and prunes all branches, those that bear fruit and those that do not bear fruit, just so that all may bear fruit, they are all able to bear fruit... because the branches are already strengthened and pruned with the message of the gospel they already know.

The vine is Jesus with the disciples and the disciples with Jesus, they are the same community, the same people, if they do not stay with him then he cannot stay with them either, if they are not together they cannot bear fruit. For this reason, Jesus warns: The branch that is cut [alone] is destroyed. Similarly, he affirms that those who remain obedient to his word will be able to attain all that they ask of God. There is no way to be disciples of Jesus without bearing fruit [which generates the vine in the branches] and these fruits give glory to the Father who cultivates the vine.

Being apart is when more than ever we need to think about each other and stay together. The communion with Jesus allows Jesus to produce the fruits in his branches. Jesus remains united with us and it is the task of the disciples to allow the vine to honor the care of God by maintaining communion with Jesus Christ so that the vine can bear good fruit.

The idea of the text is that we let Jesus operate with us to give our best through communion with his word. The communion of all of us with Jesus allows him to express the agape, love in action, in a way that we alone could never achieve. The word of Jesus strengthens us in the face of fears, helps us to see clearly in the face of the complexity of what we are living, it sustains us in the face of the difficulties that obstruct the communion with one another.

The communion with Jesus calls us to the diakonia of agape, to solidarity service, the selfless disposition for others, to concern for the support of the lives of the people with which we live, in the community, and in the world. Jesus can change the reality in which we live in the world, but he needs the communion of the branches with the vine, the entangled work, together, so that its fruits manifest themselves through them.

Let us be surprised by all that Christ can do together with us for the glory of God and the joy of his people. Amen.

“Be a Channel of God’s Grace”

Pastor Pablo