

JOHN 15:4 B FF.
APRIL 23, 1989
ROME GEORGIA
September 27, 2015

The city of Washington D.C. has now been De-**POPE**-ulated.
As you may have heard, De Pope was in D.C. this past week.

The Holy Father – as he is referred to by his groupies, stopped by D.C. to address the US House, and generally play to an admiring throng of on-lookers, **who took “selfies” with the pope to prove what an humble person he was and how holy they were for the 1/1,000th of a second that it took to snap the picture.**

Perfectly Timed Photo shows President Obama with Horns while meeting with Pope Francis:



- Mat 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,**
6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren.
9 And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ.
11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

C.S. Lewis

“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and corruption such as you now meet , if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one of these destinations.” *In his Image*, p. 33

CONFESSION AND OBEDIENCE ARE THE TWO KEY INGREDIENTS IN TRUE COMMUNION WITH THE FATHER.

When we confess our sins, we are **AGREEING with God** about them.
Communion/fellowship depends on agreement and agreement requires complete subjection of one to his superior.
ERGO - it is imperative that the commands of one be kept by the other..

CHRIST **ABODE** IN GOD'S LOVE BY KEEPING ALL OF GOD'S WILL - LIKEWISE, WE AS CHILDREN OF GOD ABIDE IN GOD'S LOVE, THAT IS IN UNHINDERED COMMUNION WITH HIM, WHEN WE ARE OBEYING THE COMMANDS OF GOD.

"**OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST IS MANIFESTED BY OUR FRUITBEARING.** HE IS THE VINE, AND WE WHO HAVE BEEN JOINED TO HIM THROUGH FAITH ARE THE BRANCHES. WE SHARE WITH THE VINE IN TWO IMPORTANT ESSENTIALS:

(1) **WE HAVE THE SAME LIFE**

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **believeth on me hath everlasting life.**

(2) **WE HAVE THE SAME NATURE**

II Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **db 2-26-81.**

RESUME 9/27/15

I . THE REASON TO ABIDE

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(these two points are to be covered in subsequent week(s))

II . THE RESULTS OF ABIDING

III .THE REQUIREMENTS OF ABIDING

I . THE REASON TO ABIDE

A. WE WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT. As we do this we will

1. BRING GLORY TO GOD'S NAME

John 15:8 Herein is **my Father glorified**, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

THE GREAT CHRISTIAN NOBLEMAN SAMUEL RUTHERFORD ONCE DECLARED
"GOD IS NO IDLE HUSBANDMAN. HE PURPOSETH A CROP!"

"THE LORD JESUS IS INTERESTED IN MORE THAN JUST THE "**LEAVES**" OF **PROFESSION**; HE WANTS US TO GO ON TO THE HIGHER GROUND OF DISCIPLESHIP, SERVICE, AND "**MUCH FRUITBEARING**"!
THEN WE GLORIFY THE FATHER AND DEMONSTRATE TO MEN THAT WE HAVE INDEED "**BEEN WITH JESUS**"! **db 5-22-70**

As we **bring glory to His name**, we are demonstrating that we **LOVE HIM** and are **ABIDING** in Him. This in turn demonstrates our **UNION** with God to the world and ultimately, it will enable us to

2. BRING PEOPLE TO A SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**

B. IF WE DO NOT ABIDE - WE CANNOT BEAR FRUIT 4 & 5c

John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. **AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT OF ITSELF, EXCEPT IT ABIDE IN THE VINE; NO MORE CAN YE, EXCEPT YE ABIDE IN ME.**

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.

THE **CIPHER "0"** is worth nothing when it is standing by itself. It may just be used to fill up an empty space! But when that same ZERO is properly related to other numerals, then some rather marvelous results accrue. (Just think of the difference a ZERO can make on your income tax refund check, or what an even bigger difference it could make on the check you made out to the government!) **db 6-5-71**

THERE IS AN **OLD HYMN** IN WHICH WE SING AND ASK GOD TO MAKE US "NOTHING" THE TRUTH IS, WE ALREADY ARE NOTHING!

Romans 7:18 For I know **that in me** (that is, in my flesh,) **dwelleth no good thing:** for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

EVEN IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER - AS LONG AS WE TRY TO OPERATE ON OUR OWN POWER , WE ARE INDEED NOTHING!

BUT- WHEN WE ARE **ABIDING IN CHRIST**, THEN WE TAKE ON IMMEASURABLE VALUE!

PAUL - Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless **I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Philippians 4:13 I can do **all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 2:13 For it is **God which worketh in you both** to will and to do of his good pleasure.

OF WHAT VALUE IS A BRANCH OR LIMB IF IT IS NOT DRAWING ITS STRENGTH, ITS VERY LIFE FROM THE VINE? IN THE VINEYARD, SUCH LIMBS ARE TAKEN AWAY AND BURNED! (V. 6)

Example - **ISRAEL - ISAIAH 5:2** God looked for it to bring forth grapes - and it brought forth wild grapes!

MANY CHURCHES TODAY - We call the edifice the church. We hide behind our buildings and grounds and say "look what good thing" we have done for the Lord.

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE BUILDING - IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BELIEVED ON THE LORD. WHEN WE SEE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS THAT WE GIVE, AND PERCEIVE THAT THEY GO TO THIS BUILDING, WE DO ERR!

TOO MANY PEOPLE TODAY HAVE LOST SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE ARMOR OF GOD IS **NOT THE PEW** WE SIT IN BUT THE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE SUSTAIN TO OUR GOD.

WE SEE GOING TO CHURCH AS COMING TO A BUILDING RATHER THAN GATHERING TOGETHER WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

WE MAKE THESE ERRORS IN JUDGEMENT BECAUSE **WE FAIL TO ABIDE IN CHRIST!**

C. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ABIDING. 15: 6

1. Fruitless futility in the flesh
2. Loss of testimony in the world.

John 15:6 If a man **abide not** in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and **MEN** gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

WHOLLY WITHIN THE SPHERE OF HIS PUBLIC TESTIMONY, THE BELIEVER MAY, **BY NOT BEING ADJUSTED TO THE WILL OF GOD**, HE MAY BE "CAST FORTH AS A BRANCH" AND BE "WITHERED" HIS PROFESSION OF FAITH IS REJECTED BY HIS FELLOW MAN AND HIS SPIRITUAL VITALITY IS DIMINISHED.

A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR POINT IS MADE TO THE **CHURCH AT EPHEBUS**

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **REPENT, AND DO THE FIRST WORKS; OR ELSE I WILL COME UNTO THEE QUICKLY, AND WILL REMOVE THY CANDLESTICK OUT OF HIS PLACE, EXCEPT THOU REPENT.**

OUR TESTIMONY, OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE MEN AND WOMEN TO ACCEPT THE LORD AS THEIR SAVIOR, ALL OF THIS DEPENDS ON OUR WILLINGNESS TO ABIDE IN CHRIST!

THOT- WARNING **"WE ARE TO BE PRODUCING FRUIT! IF WE DO NOT WITNESS, WE WILL MOST ASSUREDLY WILT!**

ARE YOU MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF ABIDING?

I John 2:6 IS THE **TEST FOR TRUE ABIDING**

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. "

ARE YOU WALKING AS CHRIST WALKED - ALWAYS DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER?

**** (Pilgrim's Progress:** excerpts and comments for reference

Now I saw in my Dream that Christian and Hopeful forsook him, (Mr. By-ends) and kept their distance before him; but one of them looking back, saw three men following Mr By-ends, and behold, as they came-up with him, he made them a very low congee, and they also gave him a compliment. **The men's names were Mr Hold-the-world, Mr Money-love, and Mr Save-all;** men that Mr By-ends had formerly been acquainted with; for in their minority they were School-fellows, and were taught by one Mr Gripe-man, a School-master in Love-gain, which is a Market-town in the County of Coveting, in the North. This School-master taught them the Art of Getting, either by violence, cousenage, flattery, lying, or by putting on a guise of Religion; and these four Gentlemen had attained much of the Art of their Master, so that they could each of them have kept such a School themselves.

At this point in the story (*MN This is after Vanity Fair and the death of Faithful*) **Christian and Hopeful** were joined by **Mr. Money-love, Mr. By end, and Mr. Hold-the-world**, and the latter three asked if it was acceptable **for a minister or a tradesman** to use means before them to multiply their **earthly possessions. The use of religion for material gain was discussed**, to which Christian responds,

“Neither will it out of my mind, but that that man **that takes up religion for the world, will throw away religion for the world; ...**”

then **Judas** was used as an example.

This really struck me in light of the **prosperity gospel**. Some people are trying to use the name and power of God for their own material gain; however, their hearts are in such wicked dispositions **that at any time they may abandon their religion if *that were a means of material gain.***

1 Timothy 6:10 - The love of money is surely the root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.