
THERE'S REASON TO REMAIN

ZACH SPECTOR - SUNDAY MORNING AT THE ROCK

11/17/19

John 15:4 "Remain in me, as I also remain in you"

Acts 17:28 For in him we live and move and have our being.

SEMANTIC SATIATION

- ✓ Have you ever said a word so often that it no longer sounded like a word?
- ✓ Or typed an email and while rereading that email you realized you used the same word way too many times?
- ✓ // when a word is repeated so often it loses its meaning or no longer sounds like a word.

John 15:1-17 NIV "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did

not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

- ✓ Jesus says the Greek word meno, or remain, 10 times in 7 verses.
- ✓ One could look at this text and speculate that Jesus is merely repeating a theme
- ✓ If we’re not careful, if we don’t slow it down, we too could get sucked into semantic satiation to the point where we read right over the theme Jesus is leaving us right before he heads to the cross.

REMAINING

- ✓ Let’s pray that God would speak to us around the area of remaining.
- ✓ Story: One of the hardest things in life can be to remain.
 - Remain in a marriage
 - Remain in a job
 - Remain in a church
 - Remain in a phone contract! Growing up the phone contracts were two years meaning you had to remain in your contract and with the same phone for TWO YEARS!
- ✓ Remain: Continue to exist, especially after other similar people or things have ceased to exist.

John 15:4-5 *Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

THE VINE

- ✓ What Disconnects You From the Vine

- Pride disconnects us from the vine.
- Distraction disconnects us from the vine.
- Sin disconnects us from the vine.

John 15:6 *If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*

✓ Branch vs. Stick

- The only difference between a branch and a stick is that one is connected.
- Not only is the name different but now the purpose is different as well.
- The purpose of a stick is far different than the purpose of a branch.
- A branch is designed to bear fruit, to bear leaves.
- A stick is serves no purpose outside of being kindling for a fire.

✓ Being disconnected from the vine, the source, you lose your ability to produce.

✓ The Choice is Yours

John 6:66-69 *NLT "At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."*

- ✓ Paul in 2 Timothy *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*
- ✓ Paul remained, and got rooted.
- ✓ John remained, and got the relationship.
- ✓ Jesus remained, and got resurrection.

REMEMBER AND RECEIVE

✓ Prodigal Son

Luke 15:31 *"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours."*

- ✓ It's the one who remains who has access to everything.
- ✓ It's the one who remains who gets the keys to the kingdom.
- ✓ It's the one who remains who bears lasting fruit.
- ✓ The key to life is to just remain.
- ✓ There's reason to remain!

YOU FIND PURPOSE IN REMAINING!!!!

YOU GAIN LIFE IN REMAINING!!!!

When does God ever not have a plan?

If God has a plan for everything else, why wouldn't he have one for you?