

# COMMITTING TO CONNECTION

#2 "Connecting to Christ"  
The Vineyard Church of Conroe  
Raymond McDonald  
January 11, 2015

## Sermon Notes

*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* Colossians 1:16-17

### OUR LIFE IN CHRIST IS A Commitment to Connection

*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.* John 15:4

### A Connection WITH CHRIST

### Is a Commitment TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

#### I. John 15:5-8

<sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**We Can Connect with Christ when we Commit to...**

### REFLECTIVE READING OF SCRIPTURE

*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.* John 5:39-40

## **II. John 15:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

**We Can Connect with Christ when we Commit to...**

### **OBEDIENCE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

*For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”* Galatians 5:14

## **III. John 15:16**

<sup>16</sup> 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.

**We Can Connect with Christ when we Commit to...**

### **PRAYER IN JESUS’ AUTHORITY**

*Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.* John 16:24

**Closing: John 15:17**

<sup>17</sup> **This is my command: Love each other.**

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.* Matthew 5:43-45