

Message Notes

Experiencing God in Prayer:

5. The Ultimate Goal – John 15.1-8

1. The ultimate goal of the Christian life is union with Christ.
2. This is a lifelong journey in which we bear the fruit of the Spirit.
3. We know we are beginning to achieve this when our prayer desires to reflect God's will alone.

LifeConnect Group Discussion Questions

- Andrew Murray, in *The True Vine*, wrote that the difference between work and fruit is that a machine can do work, but only a life can bear fruit. In what ways do we try to live our Christian lives in terms of *doing* rather than *bearing*?
- What sort of pain can be associated with Jesus' concept of 'pruning' in John 15?
- Notice that Jesus repeats the phrases "remain in me" and "bear fruit" – as well as "love". How are these related?
- How do your prayer life and your bearing of the fruit of the Spirit relate?
- How would you describe the pathway of your Christian growth? Like a straight line? A long and winding road? Switchbacks? Something else?
- As a branch on Christ's vine, how would you describe the fruit in your life? Grade A? Juicy? Green? Wormy? Why?
- Spend time in prayer together, asking the Lord to help you move toward union with the Lord Jesus in your walk with him.