



REAL GOD, REAL CHURCH, REAL LIVES

REAL GOD - Week 8. Our Triune God

These notes support the current sermon series; both of which are designed to help us focus anew upon God and to seek His will for our future as a Church. They can be used by individuals, two to three people or within a house group. They can be read through reasonably quickly or form the basis of deeper consideration and meditation.

Readings

Isaiah 42: 1-9; Psalm 1; Ephesians 4: 1-16; John 15: 1-17

Prayer, Praise and Meditation. Read and meditate upon Psalm 1 and Revelation 22: 1-5; praise God for His living waters, His light and life and how He provides spiritual nourishment for us so that in time we may bear fruit. Pray as the Spirit leads.

Real God; Our Triune God (Isaiah 42: 1-9 & John 15: 1-17)

Read Isaiah and ponder/discuss each aspect of the Godhead that we see in this passage; what aspects of His being and His doing are recorded (what from the sermon/study notes series do we see in this passage)?

On Sunday we considered analogies to help us with our understanding of our Triune God: the clover leaf (one plant three parts); the human being (one being with a mind, body and spirit); and the Sun (the celestial being, the Light and the Power). Do these analogies assist; what aspects of our Triune God do we find difficult to understand? We went on to consider, from the passage in John, the Father as the Gardener, the Son as the Vine, the Holy Spirit as the Sap and we as the branches. Consider/discuss the different aspects of Father, Son and Holy Spirit that we see in this passage focusing on what they do and their relationship; does this help our understanding of who they are (look back over the previous study notes for help)?

Real Lives: Our Response (John 15: 1-17 & Ephesians 4: 1-16)

From the passage in John we challenged ourselves in four specific ways: are we grafted into Jesus (2-6); are we bearing fruit (4/5&8); are we remaining in Him (9-11); and are we faithful in prayer (7&16b)? Consider the meaning of each of these challenges and allow the Spirit to direct our thoughts to determine what action we should take. Agree that action with someone we trust and let us keep each other accountable (an action might be to determine our gifts – practical, material or spiritual – and how we might use them for God to bear fruit).

Allow the passage in Ephesians to assist as it describes how we should live (1-3) in our faith (4-6) through the grace of God (7-10) in the roles He calls us to (11-12) to spiritual maturity (13) within Christ's body to God's glory (14-16).

Real God, Real Church, Real Lives: Pause and Reflect

The Lord Jesus came to become the True Vine fulfilling God's salvation plan and calling us to be part of Him as His Church; the branches.

A vine is a relatively small plant that can bear a great deal of fruit from its branches if nurtured effectively. A vine is often given a trellis to support its growth. We are those branches and the fruit we are to bear is spiritual and physical to God's glory.

Consider St Aidan's. The Anglican Church that we are with the fabric of our physical building and resources is the trellis to support the growth of the people the branches in Christ the Vine.

We can focus on looking after the trellis or we can focus on the Vine thus allowing the trellis to support our growth. How as a Church might we actually do this; where do we think our focus is on the trellis rather than the Vine? Pruning is a painful part of growth for a plant; where might we prune, at St Aidan's, to allow real growth?

Growth takes time; be encouraged that we have the perfect Gardener (1), the ultimate friend (13-14) and real joy (11)

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