

sermon study guide

Pastor: Kervin Raugust

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Sermon Title: Showroom – God’s Glory in Display

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What has been your experience with greenery (e.g. flowers, gardens)? Would you consider yourself to have a “green thumb”?
2. Pastor Kervin told about a dream he had where he was in a showroom and was on display. God was proud of him, telling the angels about him. How do you imagine God views you? Why?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read John 15:1-8

3. Jesus uses the ‘vine’ metaphor to show us what it’s like to walk with God. In these verses, what is God’s role? Jesus’ role? Our role?

What is reciprocal about these relationships?

4. What is the purpose of ‘pruning’ in gardening? How have you experienced God’s pruning in your life?

Read Isaiah 61:3b

5. What fruit is God developing in me to be displayed in His ‘showroom’?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

Read John 15:12-17

6. What are we asked to do to help others be presentable in the ‘showroom’?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Is there an area of your life that you sense God wants to produce more fruit? In your praying, in your serving, in your relationships, in your attitudes or behaviours?

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THE WORD (NIV)

John 15:1-17

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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.

⁵ “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. 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. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Exodus 33:18-22

Isaiah 61:3

sermon study summary

Showroom: God's Glory on Display

John 15:1-17 ... Key verse 15:8

Pastor Kervin Raugust

Not long ago, Pastor Kervin had a dream where he saw himself in an expansive and brightly lit room. He felt unsettled at being the focal point of all the attention. Then he heard the heavenly Father's voice praising him, while angels filled the room in a standing ovation. Then Pastor Kervin asked: Can we see ourselves in such a dream, or is it impossible for us to believe? In truth, you already qualify to be in the showroom: not for your performance, but for your relationship with Jesus Christ as your Savior. As his beloved child, God is proud of you and who you are becoming. He wants you to know His intentions for you (2 Cor 3:18).

Jesus understood that His life was a showroom, coming into this world to reveal God to us (Isa 7:14, Mark 1:17, Matt 11:28-30, John 13:15-17). But Jesus turned the spotlight from his life to ours. "This is to my Father's GLORY that YOU bear much fruit SHOWING YOURSELVES to be my disciples" (John 15:8, emphases added).

God's GLORY – his goodness, radiant beauty, and strength – was shown to Moses (Exodus 33:18ff), and through Moses. The Israelites were astonished to see the radiance of Moses' face after being with God. Living a life on display reveals the reputation and radiance of God's nature.

How does God reveal his glory through us (John 15:8)? Jesus gives us a beautiful image in John 15:1-7. God is the vinedresser, Jesus is the true vine, and we are the branches. The vine needs much care from the vinedresser to bear fruit to its full potential. He cuts off non-bearing branches and suckering shoots that limit the fruit harvest. Fruit is more abundant close to the trunk of the vine (John 15:5). God prunes out what hinders us from radiating the glory of God, cutting back performance-based followership to direct our energy into growing an intimate relationship with Jesus. The most important habit to increase your capacity as a showroom for God's glory is abiding, or remaining, in Jesus' presence.

The second practice is "that YOU bear much fruit - fruit that will last" (v.16), "You" being both individuals and the church. The fruit of love (John 15:9-12) is personal and transforming, setting us free. To learn how to love others, look and learn from Jesus, then do what He did (John 15:11). We must experience God's love to display His glory (Isaiah 16:3b). His love provides a place of refuge and shelter. It matters to others that you radiate the glory of God's goodness.

The third practice is "...SHOWING YOURSELVES to be my disciples." Jesus reveals His expectations in John 15:13-17, exchanging the word friend (Greek: *philos* = loyal ally friend) for disciple. Jesus knew that this love is costly (v.13); this is what Jesus did for us. It is doing both our duty (v.14,17), and the Father's business (v.15, Luke 2:49).

Friends of Jesus are people of prayer. They know the secret of answered prayer. Begin by abiding in him. Then, listen to Jesus' voice and His heart's cry: It is in abiding you will hear the Holy Spirit speak of the longings of God's heart for you and the church. As we align our requests with Jesus' will, we know God will give us whatever we ask (John 15:7,16). During this week of prayer, let us pray for CSC to grow in its capacity to be a showroom for God's glory!