

# THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

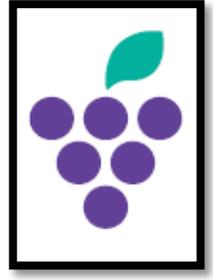
## #16 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

*Church in your pyjamas!*

Sat 18 July 2020



The GRAPE: It is a solitary thing and yet even in isolation it has come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.



### ANCHOR SERIES #7

Paul's letter to the Romans makes some big calls about our experience of hardship and suffering... to the point where he states:



That's a BIG CALL...

## **FURTHER REFLECTION: “SIN & ETERNITY”**

(Get a coffee and get ready to read this page a couple of times.)

In last week’s sermon I said that the reason I became a Christian was not because of a desire for eternal life, or a fear of Hell, but rather a desire to experience the Love of God. To see myself as God sees me: “Loved and Accepted Dave!”

Yet Paul was adamant that eternal life is a crucial PERSPECTIVE.

In our modern world we are so focussed on sinful behaviours we often miss the point that SIN’S power “alters the structure of Reality!” resulting in our physical death.<sup>1</sup> Paul focuses on Adam and Eve; they could have lived with God forever, however their desire to “eat the apple” (code for desire to be a god) resulted in them being kicked out of Paradise to live mortal, human lives, which Paul refers to as the FALL of humanity.

### **WOW what a brain full of concepts!!!!**

Because of Adam’s disobedience, SIN has “altered the structure of Reality”, resulting in our physical death & creating a desire within us to be a god! (control?)

Q. *In what ways do we try and become a god in our lives?  
(What do god like tendencies even look like???)*

Q. *Can you name some specific god like tendency others have?*

Jesus’ death reconciles us to God, overcoming SIN (our physical DEATH). God’s saving GRACE provides us with the opportunity to REPENT from trying to be a god, so we have ETERNAL LIFE.

Q. *Is Repentance a one off event or a regular spiritual discipline?*

---

<sup>1</sup>Paul Achtemeier: Interpretation Commentary Romans, p 100 – 101. (John Knox Press)

## **RECOMMENCING INTERIM WORSHIP:**

**DATE:** 09 AUG 2020.  
**TIME:** To be confirmed  
**DURATION:** To be confirmed  
**FREQUENCY:** To be confirmed

The reason our services are called “Interim” is because our NEW NORMAL is very different. The below picture indicates what church corporate worship will most likely look like, taking into consideration social distancing requirements.



Not the same is it?

So the good news is we have a date.

The challenge is to get all the processes in place, hence one of the reasons the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in August was chosen.

The recent Vines Survey indicated that up to 90 people would like to attend the first service, and as the church only holds 50 when applying COVID 19 restrictions, we have to figure out how that works.

Some things to consider include:

- *Having the correct paperwork and procedures in place as per Govt. requirements.*
- *Cleaning everything after each service.*
- *Probably no morning teas, no hugs, no handshakes with David after the service.*
- *What will our gathering together look like?*

## **INTERIM WORSHIP Questions to COVID 19 team:**

“Can couples sit together?”

“How will we accommodate children?”

“What about new people?”

“Do we have more than one service? If so, at what times?”

“Do we still need to sign in at the door?”

“What is the process for coming into the church?”

“Is booking done on line or via the phone?”

So there's lots of stuff to work out and it continues to be important that everyone continues to be patient as your LEADERS' TEAM continues to be proactive in working through these variables.

Rev DJPrior

### **Join us for online tea and coffee after church again this Sunday**

At 10.30 am tomorrow, **Sunday, 19 JULY**, we will again catch up for VIRTUAL coffee and tea after Church.

Visitors welcome!

**Please refer to this week's Grapevine for more information**

**CHECK <https://thevinesunitingchurch.com>**

### **Remember OUR key MESSAGE:**

***“Phone a Friend and Choose life”***

‘Cos you can't catch the virus over the phone...

**But you can pass on God's love!**

