

THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

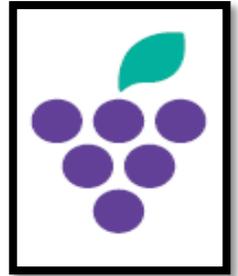
#17 The Grape: "Something to chew on."

Church in your pyjamas!

Sat 25th 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 #8

Paul's letter to the Romans makes some big calls about our experience of hardship and suffering... this time claiming that



REFLECTION: “The Freedom to choose.”

Today we focus on Paul’s statement that Endurance produces character, the very essence of who we are. Character doesn’t seem to be mentioned very often. For Paul states that hardship and suffering produce our character. Below is a quote from Victor Frankl, a Jewish Psychiatrist who endured 3 years in concentration camps.

“We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offered sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”

Victor Frankl, Man’s search for meaning, Rider, p75

Victor is referring to both men and women’s search for meaning.

Q. Do you agree with the idea we have “the freedom to choose” that no one or nothing can take from us?

Q. Are there areas of your life you have not picked up your personal power of CHOICE?

Q. How does the Serenity Prayer shape the above quote?

***God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.***

reinhold niebuhr (1892-1971)

This is not easy or quick and yet there are some fundamental truths that can give our lives meaning and hope, and more importantly shape our very character!

Q. Is there anything that you connect with?

Rev DJPrior

RECOMMENCING INTERIM WORSHIP:

DATE: 09 AUG 2020.

NEXT WEEK'S GRAPEVINE edition (29/7/20) will contain the latest information regarding:

TIME: DURATION: FREQUENCY:

KEY POINT TO REMEMBER... this is an INTERIM option. How the service looks on the 09 AUG will continue to evolve over the next few months, taking into consideration our creativity, COVID 19, GOV and UC Synod regulations.

Our main WHY in meeting is to “connect” with each other. With a maximum of 50 people this will be a little challenging, but we will continue our ON LINE presence also.

Below is how the church will most likely be set up. This will of course depend on what happens with COVID 19 and if SA can remain isolated from the ongoing spread of the virus.



CHAIRS: are set to the correct GOV spacing.

PEWS: can be used by couples who choose to sit together.

TABLES: for families with children, so they can do activities under parental supervision.

Please continue to be patient as your **LEADERS' TEAM** works on your behalf. **MORE TO FOLLOW** next week.... Rev DJPrior

PUTTING ON LOVE

I often have a lot of fun talking about “putting on my CRANKY pants” by mistake. Over the next few weeks and months before you step out of the door I want you to check what you are wearing.

CHECKLIST:

- * Have you PUT ON LOVE with your sneakers?
- * Removed your CRANKY pants and put on CALM pants?
- * What about your HEAD?

Have you put your CHANGE head on to ADAPT?

EMAIL RESPONSES:

I was asked to explain this question further from last week, so I have included a reference from a commentary... it links the reason why repentance is a constant call to turn around and trust in God’s GRACE.

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

A. “Grace thus throws the light that lets us see ourselves for who we really are: incurably prone to the idolatry of regarding ourselves, rather than God, as the final hope of our redemption. It is that way that grace leads us to the only repentance that matters: placing our trust finally and totally in God, not ourselves.” P 101 Interpretation Romans Commentary

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

At 10.30 am tomorrow, **Sunday, 26th 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!

