

Series:
'The Rule of Life.'

Week 1:

Living In Jesus.

John 15:1-8

SERIES OVERVIEW:

- ☀ **1) Living in Jesus** – Encouraging a deeper relationship with Christ.
- ☀ **2) Living in Prayer** – Encouraging a more disciplined and creative prayer life.
- ☀ **3) Living in Transformation** – Encouraging each other to experience transformation.
- ☀ **4) Living in Fellowship** – Encouraging increased awareness and acceptance of each other.
- ☀ **5) Living in Mission** – Encouraging a greater heart to serve God's world.
- ☀ **6) Living in Reconciliation** – Encouraging a more gracious way of handling conflict.
- ☀ **7) Living in Submission** – Encouraging a greater desire to submit to God and to each other.

1. IN CHRIST:

- ☀ Paul - 'A man in Christ' -
(2Cor. 12:2)
- ☀ The teaching of Jesus –
(Jn. 15:4)
- ☀ a) One Body: (Rom. 12:4) –
 - One with Christ and His 'Body' -
- ☀ b) One In Spirit: (1Cor. 6:17)
 - A relationship of personal intimacy -

1. In Christ Cont'd...:

- ☀ c) One Family: (Jn. 17:21,23)
 - Related to the Father and the Son
 - Perfect union – life in relationship
- John Stott -
- ☀ *'...something much more than a formal attachment or nodding acquaintance. Something more even than a personal friendship; it is nothing less than a vital, organic, intimate union with Jesus Christ, involving a shared life and love.'*

2. GOING DEEPER:

- ☀ (Ps.42:7) *"Deep calls to deep.."*
- ☀ To make - spiritual warriors who will make a dynamic impact -
- ☀ The substantial foundation – *(Heb.3:14)*
- ☀ a) Foundational Beliefs –
 - We need to 'seize and retain' -
 - ☀ *'Perhaps there is nothing more important to a person's ultimate conversion to the Christian faith, and even to the pace and depth of their spiritual growth over a lifetime, than to fully understand and accept the implications of these core beliefs.'* [Greg L Hawkins]

2. Going Deeper Cont'd..:

- ☀ b) Christian Friendships –
 - Acts of service & times of fellowship –
 - Sunday services & small groups –
 - *(Heb.10:25)*
 - ☀ *'Church activities form the most critical 'on ramp' for the development and reinforcement of spiritual beliefs and attitudes... providing social structures for early believers so that spiritual friendships and other relationships form.'*

2. Going Deeper Cont'd...:

☀ c) Spiritual Practices –

- ☀ Bible reading –
- ☀ Reflection on the Scriptures –
- ☀ Prayer to seek guidance and to confess sins -
- ☀ Pushing forward wisely – *(Josh. 1:8)*
- ☀ *'The most dominant force driving spiritual engagement is a routine practice of spiritual disciplines that feeds an active, personal and intimate relationship with Christ.'*
[Greg L Hawkins]

THE FINAL WORD:

'How do we develop followers of Jesus? – This question challenges everything – Instead of counting the number of attendees or ministries, what if we were to ask – 'What percentage of our membership feel they grew to be more like Jesus this past year?'