

# "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



## STAYING CONNECTED

It sits on the window sill, basking in the sunlight and sending out new branches. One of those branches even has a new addition of it's own. If those branches remain connected to the main root plant, enjoy the sunshine and get the necessary water and fertilizer, they should continue to grow and flourish.

Jesus had a lesson about this type of thing. He told people, "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. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers". **(John 15:5-6)**

What was he talking about? What is this "fruit"? Does it have any relevance to life today?

God's Word in Galatians 5:22,23; gives this list: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

People worldwide are calling out for more "love" in their lives. Daily we read of everyone from politicians to the homeless calling for "peace". Forbearance (patience), the everyday, quiet acts of joy, kindness etc., appear so lacking that when it does happen, it is shown on the evening news as something exceptional rather than standard, expected actions.

God knows the world needs these attitudes of caring and sharing, yet no matter how often we see examples of these acts, there never appears to be enough to go around.

That is one of the reasons why he sent Jesus; to demonstrate love, even toward those we find hard to love and care for. The other was to offer forgiveness to all who recognize where they have failed to live the expected "fruits" and to help us succeed in the future.

If, like the little green, flourishing offshoots above, we stayed connected to the source of all these good attitudes, namely Jesus, by talking to him and listening to his words in the Bible, who knows what "fruits" may flourish and nourish our lives, and the lives of the community we are part of.

God bless,

Kevin.