
SUNDAY SCRIPTURES APRIL 28TH

Acts 8:26-40 • Psalm 22:25-31 • 1 John 4:7-21 • John 15:1-8



As a context for reflections on faith in light of the messy ways the world this week – in the midst of so much that is stunningly beautiful, as well as suffering and distress beyond imagination, -- let us focus our attention to this week's reading from 1 John.

Using as an entry point these words of Jesus -- *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me.* John 15:4

What does it mean for us "to remain" together in God?

What does it mean now in this setting for us to love?

Beloved,

let us love each other,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves is begotten of God
and has knowledge of God.
8 Those who do not love have known nothing of God,
for God is love.
9 God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:
by sending the Only Begotten into the world,
that we might have faith through the Anointed One.
10 Love, then, consists in this:
not that we have loved God,
but that God has loved us
and sent the Only Begotten
to be an offering for our sins.
11 Beloved,
if God loved has loved us so,
we must also have the same love for one another.

12 No one has ever seen God.
Yet if we love each other,
God dwells in us,
and God's love is brought to perfection in us.
13 The way we know that we remain in God and God remains in us,
is that we have been given the Spirit.
14 We have seen for ourselves and can testify
that God has sent the Only Begotten as Savior of the world.
15 When any acknowledge that Jesus is the Only Begotten,
God dwells in them
and they in God.
16 We have come to know and to believe
in the love God has for us,
God is love,
and those who abide in love
abide in God
and God in them.

17 Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgment without fear -- *because our relation to the world is just like Christ's*. 18 There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear. To fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love.

19 We love because God first loved us. 20 If you say you love God but hate your sister and brother, you are a liar. For you cannot love God, whom you have not seen, if you hate your neighbor whom you have seen. 21 If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well; we have this commandment from God.

1 John 4:7-21 The Inclusive Bible