



Don't 'Unplug the Power'! (John 15:4-5)

Introduction: *A lesson taught by a repairman in 1977: "Don't unplug the power!"*

- I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS **NOT** A MATTER OF OUR WILLPOWER
 - A. Jesus told us that our willpower cannot work (v.5)
 - B. There is no such thing as *I can do it myself Christianity*
 1. So says Proverbs 14:12
 2. Note – *"The 10 metre & the 10,000 metre long jump"*
 3. Yet – how many Christians (yes, Lutherans!) don't believe Ephesians 2:8-9
 - C. The reality of our sin dashes all such hopes (Romans 3:23)

- II. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS **NOT** ABOUT OUR TRYING TO BE GOOD, BUT ABOUT OUR PERFECT SAVIOUR
 - A. On the cross, Jesus reveals the source of God's power & life for us
 - B. This power & life comes to us as branches abiding in Jesus the vine (vv. 4-5)

- III. JESUS OUR PERFECT SAVIOUR PROVIDES THE MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN ABIDE IN HIM
 - A. He comes to us in His 3-fold Word: written Word, spoken Word, visible Word
 - B. Today's visible Word [Holy Communion] declares our humble receptivity, leaving no room for prideful willpower (Luke 22:19-20)
 - C. Holy Communion: Jesus the Vine – broken & poured out for His branches

Conclusion: A lesson learned from Mr. Stephen Gettle in 2012: *"Don't unplug the power!"*