

Don't Unplug the Power

(John 15:4-5)

INTRODUCTION: *An embarrassing lesson taught by a repairman:
“Don't unplug the power!” ☺*

I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS *NOT* A MATTER OF OUR WILLPOWER

- A. Jesus told us our willpower cannot work (verse 5)
- B. There is no such thing as “*Avis (we try harder) Christianity*”
 - 1. So says Proverbs 14:12
 - 2. So says 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 for us
- B. This power comes to us as branches abiding in Jesus the Vine (vv 4-5)
- C. *This was the lesson taught to me by a vineyard keeper near Niagara Falls, Ontario*



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 [Bible],
 - spoken Word [Pulpit],
 - visible Word [Baptism & Communion]
- B. There is no place for “*Avis Christianity*” . . . trying harder doesn't work
- C. God freely supplies the power source so we can abide in Him (vv. 4-5)

CONCLUSION: *A lesson learned from Mr. Stephen Gettle:
“Is the electric cord plugged in?” ☺*