

The duty of the branch is to cling to the vine.

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**I am the Vine, You are the Branches – A reflection on life, our living and the Gospel**

In a homily titled, Being Connected over Being Correct, Richard Rohr asks, would you rather have a friend who is always right or one who is in right relationship with you? I think I know the answer: We'd rather have someone who's in right relationship with us. In fact, someone who's right all the time can be pretty obnoxious. Would we rather have a friend who's always correct or a friend to whom we're always connected? Of course, we'd rather have the second.

So why did we seemingly change the rules for God? Many of us grew up thinking God wanted us to be right, to be correct, and even to be perfect. Our Gospel this weekend is saying that God wants people who are in right relationships, which means that we are open, and that we can listen to others with understanding and compassion. It means that we can admit when we're wrong, which is almost every day for most of us. It certainly is for me.

And yet we keep condemning ourselves and others for not being perfect, for not being right, for not being correct. This parable, really one of the most beautiful in all the gospels, tells us what God desires—simply that we remain connected, a branch on the vine, which is the love of God.

Everybody seems to be trying to prove that they are right. We have almost a collective incapacity to admit failure, to ever admit that we are wrong, which makes us liars most of the time. Jesus is calling forth a very different kind of human being.

Jesus says people who live the vulnerable life of connection and relationship will bear much fruit. These are the people we trust, like, and admire. And yet so many of us are afraid to be the very thing that we admire the most. How foolish human beings are! But again, Jesus has told us the way: he is the vine. We are the branches. None of us can be or need to be correct, but we can always be connected.