Connect Study—Connected

From Acts 2:42-45 The New Testament Church was characterised by love, spreading the gospel, gathering and worship, equipping and training and the five-fold ministry. The early church was clearly very diverse with people from different cultural, linguistic and socio-economic backgrounds but the common thread that tied them together was Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:45 “The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit” As Christ’s followers, we can choose to a living person, one who just occupies space and consumes oxygen and resources or a life-giving spirit.

In Genesis, there were two trees in the Garden of Eden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. The first Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil whereas the second Adam offers the tree of life.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life represents two very distinct operating systems e.g. Apple vs Window. Every day we choose which operating system we live from:

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| Tree of the knowledge of good and evil | Tree of Life |
| Self-centred | Christ-centred |
| Leads to death | Leads to life |
| Demands Rights; holds onto wrongsFruit: Unforgiveness | Transcends right & wrongFruit: Forgiveness, Peace, Joy |
| Wants to be “IN THE KNOW”e.g. Gossip | Lives by Revelation |
| Legalistic | Wisdom |
| Negative spirit | Positive Life-giving spiritFaith – Hope – Love |
| Self – carnal thinking | Fruit of the Holy Spirit – Joy |

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your biggest take away point from the sermon on Sunday?
2. What does it mean to choose to operate from the tree of life instead of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the following areas:
* Parenting
* Marriage
* Connect group
* Relationships/friendship
* In our speech, etc.
1. From the table above, which is the one area that you need to work on to be a truly life-giving spirit wherever you go?