

The Semi-Circle: Abide

The Semi-Circle pictures the swinging of a pendulum. There is a rhythm as the pendulum swings back and forth, its arc forming a semi-circle. On one end is rest, and on the other is “word.” Or in other terms, on one end is “abide” and on the other is “fruitfulness.” The point is that we need this rhythm in order to be fruitful. Our culture encourages us to keep the pendulum pegged on the work/fruitfulness side. But we were not made that way. The path to true fruitfulness is to maintain the rhythm. We need to rest so that we can work. In fact it would be fair to say that we not only rest from our work, we work from our rest. No rest means no meaningful work.

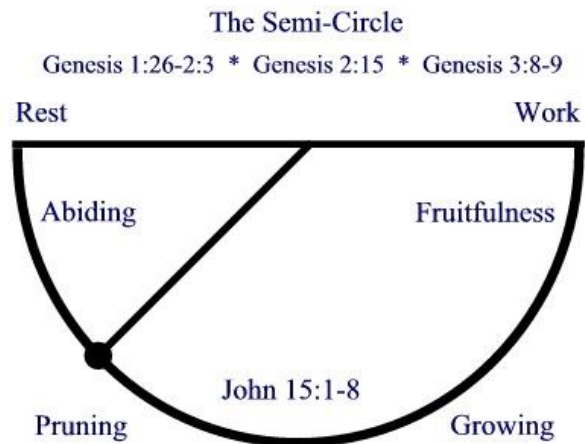
This is especially true spiritually. Jesus said this in John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ¹

We see this pattern in Jesus life. Notice in the Gospels how often Jesus goes off by himself to pray. Now if it was important for Jesus to have this “abide” time, how much more important it must be for us!

How do I apply the semi-circle? By seeking to work this pattern into my life. Not only am I to make sure I’m getting adequate physical rest, I’m to see regular spiritual abiding time with Jesus. In fact it is best to think of this as a daily need. This could be my morning prayer and devotion time, an ongoing abiding through listening to the word in the car, or taking a break at noontime for prayer and meditation. Or perhaps what works best for you is to end your day with some abiding time with your Savior. The point is to discover a pattern that works for you, a rhythm that, with God’s help you can maintain. Abide in the savior, so that in Him you might bear much fruit!



¹ *The New International Version*. 2011 (Jn 15:1–8). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.