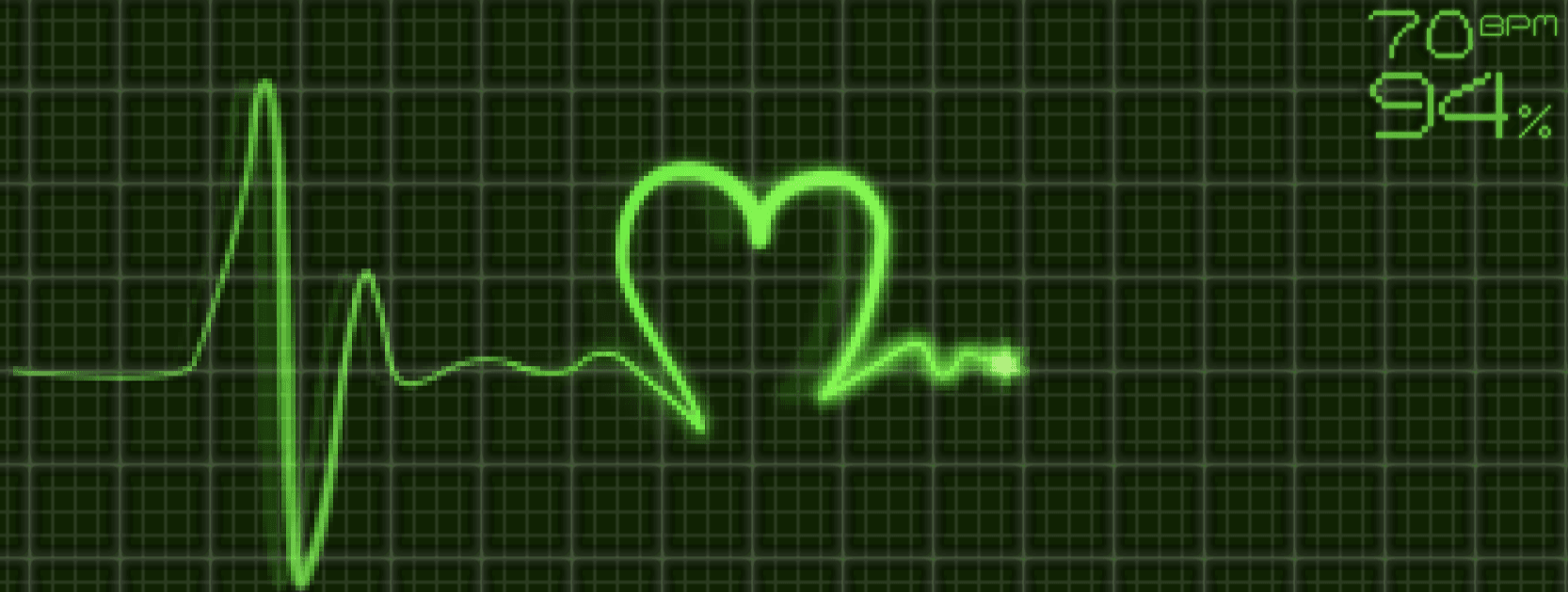


# Skip Tobin, US Ministries Director for VMM



Seven Signs of Life

## 5. Reproduction: Multiplying Life, Creating the Future

# Sermon Series Focus

- In biology we learn that there are *seven* processes of life that identify all living organisms. We could also view these as “signposts” to a healthy living organism.
- We're using these seven signs as a diagnostic tool for assessing your own spiritual health as a disciple, as well as the overall health of our church.
- Is this an area in my life that needs the Spirit to bring fresh vitality? Is this an area in our church where we need to give attention? What is God saying to me about these seven signs? Where can I (we) use his healing touch?

# Seven Signs of Life

1. Movement: Prove You're Not Dead
2. Respiration: Breathing God's Breath
3. Sensitivity: Our Spiritual Awareness
4. Growth: The Inevitable Result of Healthy Life
5. **Reproduction: Multiplying Life, Creating the Future**
6. Excretion: Getting Rid of the Junk
7. Nutrition: A Diet That Makes a Difference

## Characteristics of living things

**M**ovement

**R**espiration

**S**ensitivity

**G**rowth

**R**eproduction

**E**xcretion

**N**utrition

# MRS GREEN



“Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so.”

Genesis 1:11 NIV

“So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.””

Genesis 1:21-22 NIV



“My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...”

Paul, Galatians 4:19



## **Jesus, Gospel of Matthew 7:16-20 NIV**

<sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

<sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

# Considering Our Fruitfulness

1. What kind of fruit are you after as a church community? What might that fruit look like?
2. How might you plan for this fruit? Are we passing on what God has invested in us?
3. How can you test the fruit?

## **Jesus, Gospel of John 15:1-2 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

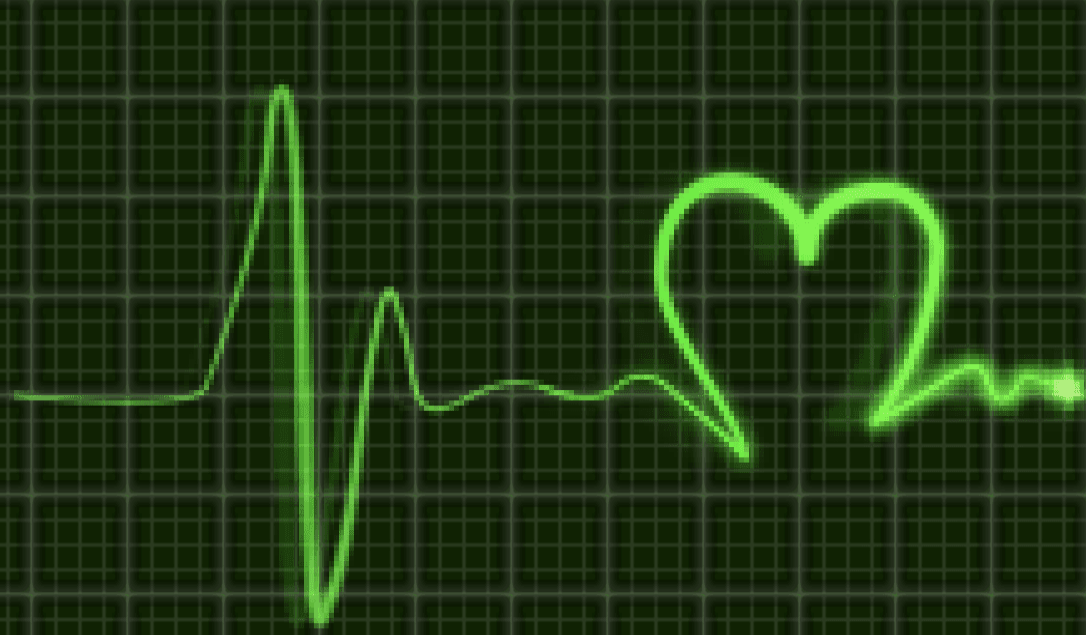
<sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

## **John 15:3-4 NIV**

<sup>3</sup> "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain 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."

## **Jesus, John 15:5-8 NIV**

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> If 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. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”



70<sup>BPM</sup>  
94%

# Seven Signs of Life

Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)