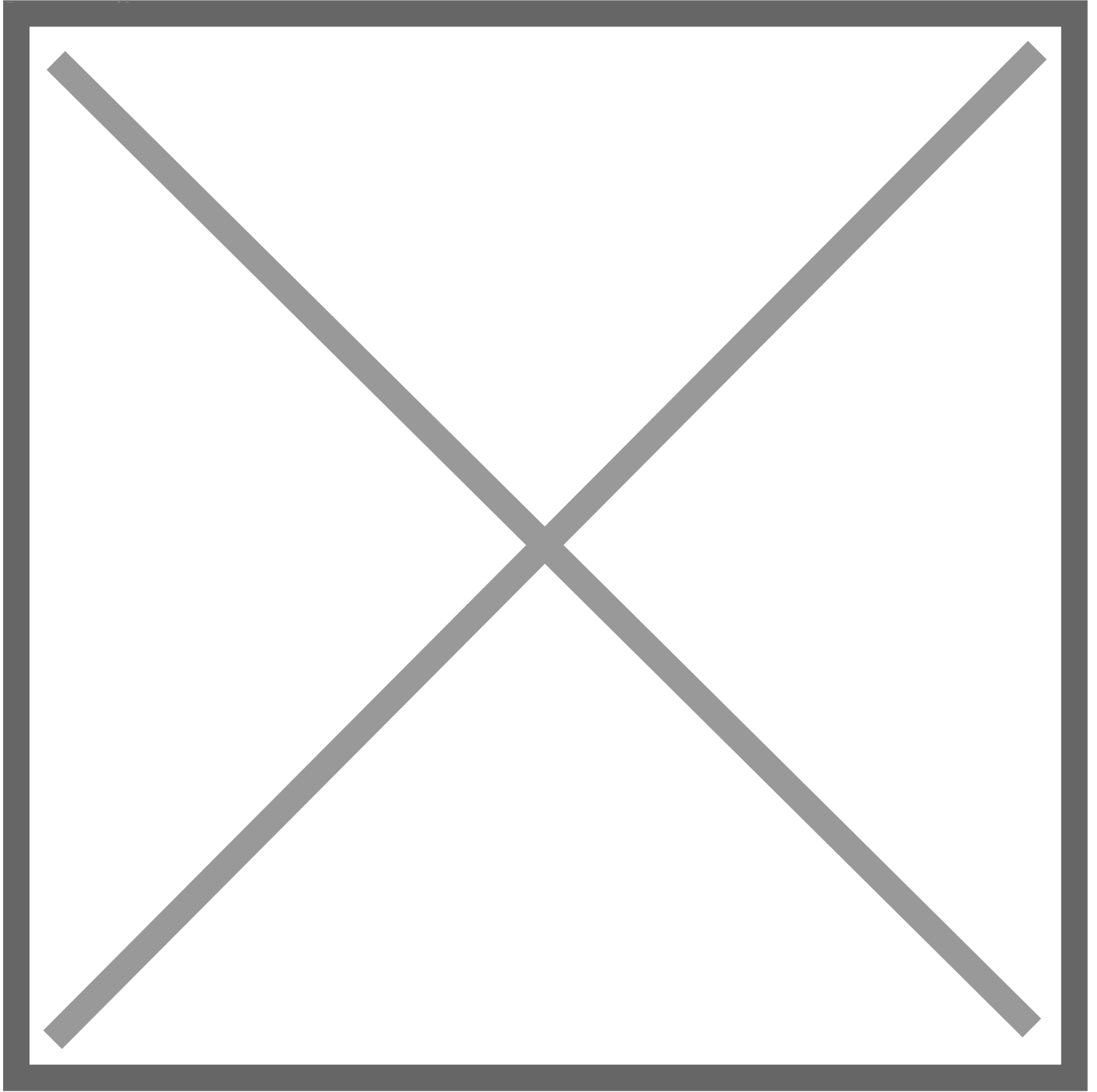


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The meaning of life

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Jesus said to his disciples: Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (John 15: 4-10)

None of us can find the meaning of our lives in our own selves. The only one who can give us this meaning is Jesus, who is God. We are in fact, "number zero", being meaningless all alone or even within a group. On the contrary, if we follow God, who, compared to us, is "number one," then our lives gain meaning. So let us remember that, if we are humble, we will find the meaning of our life through our faithfulness to Jesus, that is, in remaining attached to Him, like branches are to vines.