

## Abide in the True Vine 2019-11-10

### John 15:1-11

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*

*4 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. 5 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.*

*6 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.*

*7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

*9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 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. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

Typical of John: true/false, light/dark, love/hate....fruitful/barren branches.

- Barren branches appear like any other branch but lack fruit.
  - Like Judas, intellectual belief but no genuine faith. Matthew 7:21-23, John 6:66
- Fruitful: true Christian who by living union with Jesus EVENTUALLY produce fruit.
  - Main focus not type branch: If abide in Jesus Christ Christian will bear fruit. John 15:1

7<sup>th</sup> & last of "I AM" statements....Vineyard Old Testament image for Israel. Jeremiah 2:21

- Jesus is the true vine because brought forth the fruit Israel failed to produce. Isaiah 5:1-7
  - God's people are those joined to Jesus by grace thru faith not Israel by blood.

Command is not to produce fruit but to abide....Fruit comes naturally. John 15:4-5

- "abide" (remain) 11x in John 15, 40x John's Gospel, 27x John's epistles.

Abide describes importance of connectedness with Jesus to bear fruit.

- No branch bears fruit in isolation must be connected to vine.
  - Separate from Jesus can't bear fruit accept to God. John 15:7, 17:17, Romans 10:17

Abide by grace constantly depending upon/drawing life, wisdom, strength from Jesus.

- abiding in Jesus and His word abiding in us will conform our thoughts/desires to His then displayed thru obedience.
  - Jesus Words can't abide without effect: will bear fruit.

Fruit= Christ-likeness produced by Holy Spirit. John 15:10, 8, Matthew 7:20; 3:8, Galatians 5:22-24

- Christ like character, conduct and converts. Romans 1:13
  - faith, repentance, obedience, transformation, discipling, evangelism
- Takes time and fruit vary in amount, kind, quality but Christians bear some fruit.
  - vine ultimately responsible for amount of fruit produced.
    - lot of little-fruit Christians but no "non-fruit" Christians. James 2:14

Father takes away branches without fruit and prunes fruitful branches. John 15:1-3, 13:10

- Prune: remove excess foliage/branches that draw away energy from ultimate purpose of bearing fruit...vineyard examples.
  - Pruning not pleasant but necessary for greater fruitfulness.
- Word play: Greek pruning= to cleanse...similar to clean but need foot washing.
  - Like discipline not evidence God mad but of sonship. Hebrews 12:6
- Rest in fact that loving Father sovereignly controls whole process
  - More committed to our fruit-bearing (holiness) than our comfort.
    - removes anything hinder fruit bearing: sin, priorities, relationships

Pruning itself doesn't produce fruit but focuses the plant's energy

- discipline/suffering/trials don't produce increased fruit but should cause dependence upon Jesus for strength, wisdom. 2 Peter 1:5-8
  - "abide" not single act, nor effortless/passive.... grace w/blisters.
    - Constant decision to pursue/follow Jesus Christ and strive against sin.

Vine/branch analogy more intimate than husband/wife because it's an organic relationship of complete dependence.

- Have very life/power of Jesus Christ surging thru you that will bring forth abundant fruit of faith, holiness and obedience. John 15:5, 11
  - If abide in Jesus and you will bear fruit...we get joy and God gets glory.
    - Branch bears fruit but vine is what produces it...all about Jesus Christ.