



“I Am the True Vine”

John 15:1-9

John 15:1-9

- “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

Jesus Is The Vine

- Jesus is the root, the source of life; temporary and eternal.
 - John 1:1-4 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Jesus Is The Vine

- Col. 1:15-16 - “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”
- 1John 5:14-15 - “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

Jesus Is The Vine

- Jesus is the only living vine
 - John 14:6 - “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Jesus Is The Vine

- Jesus as the Vine has a Divine purpose
 - Distinct purpose - To produce fruit
 - Distinguished purpose - To glorify the vinedresser
 - 1Cor. 10:31 - “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
 - Delegated purpose - The Vine itself does not bear fruit; it feeds and sustains the branches, and the branches bear the fruit

God Is The Vinedresser

- Four specific duties of the Gardener toward the Vine:
- Protecting - He provides tender care for the vineyard
 - Prov. 15:3 - “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

God Is The Vinedresser

- Purifying - He lifts up the branch - He raises it higher, lifts it out of the dirt and moves it closer to sunlight, giving it a better chance to produce
- “Takes away” airo - “to lift up; to take up or away; to raise, keep suspended; by Hebraism - to expiate sin, bear up, carry, lift up, loose” (Strong's)

God Is The Vinedresser

- Pruning - He removes things from the branch that sap its strength; anything consuming but not producing
 - John 15:3 - “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

God Is The Vinedresser

- James 1:25 - “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- Heb. 4:12 - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

God Is The Vinedresser

- Purging - Those who will not remain in the vine are cast out of the vineyard and burned.

Christians Are The Branches

- Qualifications for bearing fruit:
- The branch must be attached to the vine
 - John 15:4-5 - “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Christians Are The Branches

- The branch must produce fruit from this attachment
- Sanctification - become like Him
 - Rom 6:22 - “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”
 - Phil. 1:11 - “Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”
 - Col. 1:10 - “That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

Christians Are The Branches

- Spirituality - behave like Him
 - Gal. 5:22-24 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Christians Are The Branches

- Souls - busy like Him
 - Rom. 1:13-14 - “Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. 14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.”

Christians Are The Branches

- The branch must produce fruit that glorifies that attachment
- The quality of the fruit is not the branches' responsibility. The power is in the Gospel, not the bearers of it
- The quantity of the fruit is not the responsibility of the branches. God gives the increase - 1Cor. 3:6
- Branches simply bear the fruit; it is the duty of the vinedresser to judge the fruit.
- There are four fruits listed: no fruit, fruit, more fruit, and much fruit. The more firmly the branch is attached to the vine, the more fruit the branch produces.

Christians Are The Branches

- The state of fruitlessness:
- Loss of fellowship - Cast out, no longer attached, no longer in fellowship
- Loss of vitality - Withered, lifeless, dead, waiting for the fire
- Loss of reward
 - 1Cor. 3:13-15 - “Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Life Is In The True Vine

- Unhindered prayers
 - John 15:7 - “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”
 - John 14:13-14 - “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

Life Is In The True Vine

- Unending love
 - John 15:9-11 - “As the Father loved Me, I also have 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 remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

Life Is In The True Vine

- Uncommon joy
 - John 15:11-13 - “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”

Life Is In The True Vine

- Joy is Divine in nature; it originates with God and is only given by God. It is absolutely unaffected by earthly or material things.
- Joy is not dependent upon happiness; God's joy abides at all times and circumstances, even the most difficult
- Joy is the product of faith and produces faithfulness to the Lord

Life Is In The True Vine

- Neh. 8:10 - “Then he said to them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”
- 1John 1:1-4 - “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”