



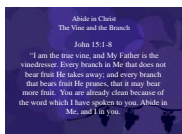
#1



Abide in Christ The Vine and the Branch

John 15:1-8 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you.

#2



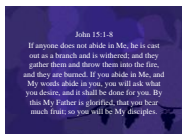
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

#3



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. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

#4



Our Lord is demonstrating to us the possibility of Abiding in Him.

#5



Jesus is thinking of grapes.

Jesus said: “I am the True Vine.”

He is the genuine vine.

He is not a false or counterfeit vine.



All who are in Christ are in the True Church.

Jesus said, God the Father is the Vinedresser.

The Vinedresser is the keeper of the vineyard.

He will do everything He can to produce a harvest of grapes.

He is the One who planted and cares for the Vine.

He is the One who prunes and purges.

He cleans and protects the Vine and the Branches.

The Church will never die because the Father is taking care of it.

You and I are branches.

In the vineyard, the branches are the focus of the vinedresser's efforts.

The branches are supported and held up so that they will have every possibility to produce abundantly.

Each branch is judged on the basis of how they relate to the True Vine.

They are either *unfruitful* (vs 2)

or *fruitful* (vs 2-3) branches of the true Vine.

They are either *unattached* (vs. 4-6)

or *attached* (vs. 7-8) branches of the true Vine.

Jesus wants us to produce fruit.

The words fruit and good works are almost interchangeable in the Bible.

They mean more than evangelism.

They were to live a life that was a testimony of Christ.



#6

Psalm 1:3 (NKJV) says the Righteous:
"shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

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#7

Fruit bearing represents a thought, attitude, or action that God values because it glorifies Him.
John 15:8 (NKJV)
By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

What does it mean when we say we are to bear fruit?
Fruit bearing represents a thought, attitude, or action that God values because it glorifies Him.

John 15:8 (NKJV) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

#8

John 15:2-8 gives four stages of fruit bearing.
◆ No fruit, vs. 2
◆ Fruit, vs. 2
◆ More fruit, vs. 2
◆ Much fruit, vs. 5
It is the will of God that you bear much fruit.

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No fruit, vs. 2

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More fruit, vs 2

Much fruit, vs. 5

It is the will of God that you bear much fruit.

#9

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV) Paul wrote:
"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Listen to 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV) Paul wrote "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

This is what God is interested in.

He wants fruitfulness in every area of your life.

Fruitfulness is involved in everything you do.



#10



Bearing fruit relates to converts, Romans 1:13

Bearing fruit is Righteousness, Romans 6:21-23

Bearing fruit is Christian character, the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23

The whole idea of fruit bearing relates to giving God glory.

Bearing fruit demonstrates our greatest personal fulfillment.

Even though this is God's purpose and plan, it will not happen automatically in your life.

For the vineyard to really produce fruit, the branches have to respond to the attentions of the vinedresser.

#11



There are specific conditions for bearing fruit in life.

To bear fruit you must be clean, John 15:3

The Father will cleanse and purge you by His Word.

His Word will cleanse your thoughts, attitude, motives, behavior, passion, and will.

To bear fruit you must Abide in Christ, vs 5

To bear fruit you must be Obedient to Christ, vs 10,12

To bear fruit you must be cleansed, abiding in Christ and obedient to Him.

There is a vital connection being represented here.

If you are going to have life you must abide in Him.



The only true purpose for the Vine is bearing fruit.

Without fruit the vine is good for nothing.

We must be vitally united to Christ, and bear fruit.

If we are a fruitless branch the Lord will have you cast us off into the fire and to be burned.

#12



What does it mean to abide in Christ and to bear fruit?

John 15:4-6 says that to abide in Christ means eight things.

To abide in Christ is to walk in open confession before God.

Don't try to cover over sin.

Freely confess sin, 1 John 1:6-10

To abide is to walk and fellowship with Christ.

We need to live in a consciousness awareness of Christ's presence, 1 John 2:6; 2:27

To abide is to continue in the Church.

We must maintain constant fellowship with one another, 1 John 2:19

To abide in Christ is to know that you know you are saved, 1 John 2:28

To abide in Christ is to refrain from sin, 1 John 3:6

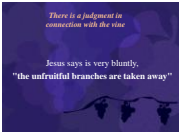
To abide in Christ is to actively surrender to God's commandments, 1 John 3:24

To experience the indwelling presence and witness of the Holy Spirit, 1 John 4:12-13

To dwell in love, unity, and fellowship with all other believers, John 17:21-23; 1 John 4:16, 20



#13



Abiding in Christ is critical to our eternal life.

There is a Judgment in connection with the vine.

Jesus says is very bluntly, "the unfruitful branches are taken away..."

Jesus is speaking of attached branches.

They are different than the unattached branches, vs 4-6.

Jesus said they are "IN ME" but, they have a problem, they bear no fruit.

They look like a branch that bears fruit,

They may have leaves like a branch that bears fruit...

But they bear no fruit.

The unfruitful branches at one time were attached to Christ.

They did have some organic relationship to Him.

At one time they began to bud and sprout.

They heard the Word.

They may have been productive at some point.

They demonstrated signs of life.

They grew into branches.

They listened to Jesus and the gospel

They were opened to the Holy Spirit.

They once had faith and trust in Him.

At one time they were capable of bearing fruit.

YET, these branches became unfruitful.

This is an undeniable fact.

They were in the Vine; they are a part of it.

But, Christ no longer has an impact on their life.

#15





#15



They do not draw enough from Christ to sustain life.

They do not bear fruit

The Lord said: "They cannot continue in the Vine!"

Matthew 24:13; 13:13

They are not genuine enough to bear fruit.

God is serious about this.

He is prepared to cut them off.

They are unfruitful and are predisposed to abandon the faith, 1 John 2:19

#16



Titus 1:16 "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

#17



Hebrews 3:12 "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God"

#18



God is going to "take away" the unfruitful branches.

The Word means to take away and remove.

In relation to the Vine, the branch is removed, and taken away.

This is a severe warning to every branch in the Vine.

How can a branch bear fruit?

This is what we really need to know.

If there is such a great judgment upon not bearing fruit then how do we bear fruit?

We need to learn how to bear fruit.

Fruit bearing is not a result of the works of the flesh.



If we could bear fruit by depending on personal abilities, Christ is excluded.

Fruit bearing is directly related to abiding in Christ.

Fruit bearing fully depends on current relationships with Christ.

#19



Maurice Ogutu, a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator says: “Pruning of grapevines involves removal of dead and broken wood, and removal of last year’s fruiting arms that bore berries, as the two-year-old wood is not productive.

Maurice said: “Grape fruits are borne on one-year-old vines”.

The branch must abide close to the heart of the vine.

The Unattached branch cannot bear fruit.

The unattached branch is alone upon this earth and is doomed.

He cannot produce righteousness that is acceptable to God, Romans 6:21-23

He cannot develop a character that is acceptable to God, Galatians 5:22-23.

The unattached branch does not understand the nature of bearing fruit in life.

He can do nothing of himself.

No one bears fruit apart from Jesus Christ.

The life and fruit of the branch is a direct result of abiding **in Christ**.



It is by abiding **in Christ** that the Spirit of Life flows through the believer.

In Christ there is purpose and significance.

In Christ is life.

#20



How can you bear more fruit?

John 15:2 “every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit”

Pruning is not pleasant.

The vinedresser comes and removes everything that hinders fruit production.

Even fruitful branches are pruned, purged, or cleansed.

“Pruning involves removal of dead and broken wood, and removal of last year’s fruiting arms that bore berries.”Maurice Ogutu, University of Illinois Extension horticulture

#21



There are two ways to be pruned:

First, Branches are cleansed by the Word.

The Word of God is a refiner.

The Word purges away everything that contaminates.

Everything that will destroy the branch is pruned.

The Word reveals what we are doing and not doing.

The Word shows our actions and failures.

Psalms 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness



#25



Second, Branches are cleansed by abiding in Christ.

John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you."

This can mean two things:

It can be a promise: The believer is cleansed by his position or by being in Christ.

It can be a command: "See to it that you abide in me and I in you."

Abiding in Christ will produce evidence of that connection.

Are you a bearing fruit?

Do you manifest the character of Christ?

Are you doing the Works of the Savior?

If you are not producing fruit you are in danger of being removed.

If you are bearing fruit, God is going to prune away everything that not like Christ.

The end result is fruit.