

## The True Vine – John 15



MEMORY VERSE: 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.  
John 15:5

### DAY 1 JOHN 15:1-5 — The Vineyard

1. Who is represented in the analogy of the vineyard and what is their role?  
True Vine-

Vinedresser-

Branches-

2. The Father “takes away” (ESV) or “cuts off” (NIV) every branch that does not bear fruit. Look up the various meanings of the Greek word, “airo” on the internet, and try to explain what verse 2a means and does not mean.

### LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus’ seventh and final I AM statement in the Gospel of John is “I am the true vine.” Extremely difficult times awaited the disciples of Christ, and the key to thriving during those times is abiding in the vine. The word “abide” is used 11 times in 11 verses. The only way to bear fruit is to abide in Christ.

3. How does 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 apply to the one who is in Christ but does not bear fruit?
4. How do you think God prunes us? Why would He prune those who are already bearing fruit?
5. What does it mean to “abide” in Christ? Why is this of the utmost importance? vv.3-5

## DAY 2 JOHN 15:6-11 — The Power of Abiding in Christ

6. What is the fate of a person who does not abide in Christ? v.6

Matthew 7:21-23

7. What other merits, instructions and results did Jesus offer those who abide in Him? vv.7-8

8. How would you describe the heart of an abiding relationship with Jesus? vv.9-11

9. What truths in verses 1-11 are convicting or challenging to you?

10. What truths in verses 1-11 are especially encouraging or motivating?

## DAY 3 JOHN 15:12-17 — The Greatest Love

11. What commandment did Jesus give His followers? v.12

12. What is the greatest expression of love? What do you think that looks like in our lives? v.13

13. When we are in Christ, we live to serve Him. But Jesus calls His disciples “friends.” What is the difference between being His servant and being His friend? vv.14-15

14. What unique connection, purpose and privilege do believers have in Christ? v16.

15. Why would obeying God's commands result in loving one another? v.17

## DAY 4 JOHN 15:18-25 — The Hatred of the World

16. What did Jesus say about the world and its treatment of His disciples? vv.18-21

17. What encouragement do the following Scriptures offer believers facing hostility for their faith?  
1 Peter 4:14 and 19

1 John 4:1-6

18. What did Jesus say about the relationship between knowledge and responsibility? vv.22-25

Luke 12:47-48

Romans 1:18-20

19. What progression happens in the lives of those who perceive who God is, yet hate Him?  
Romans 1:21-32

20. Why do you think people can see the works of God but still hate Jesus and His Father?

21. What provision did Jesus make for His disciples?

22. How does the Spirit of truth bear witness about Jesus?

1 Thessalonians 1:4-8

Jeremiah 23:29

23. How are Christ's disciples also able to bear witness about Jesus? v.27

Acts 1:8

2 Corinthians 3:3-6

24. What connection do you see between “abiding” in Christ and bearing witness for Christ?

25. How have you personally experienced the power of the Holy Spirit through abiding in Christ?

## LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus is the True Vine-the source of life, power, peace, fruitfulness and joy, and He calls us “friends.” He is the perfect friend we all want and need. If you are not experiencing His power in your life, abide in Him! Allow God to prune away anything that needs to go so that you can bear MUCH fruit.

## John 15

### The True Vine

God said His name is “I AM WHO I AM,” because of His eternal nature, dominion and power. (Exodus 3:14) Jesus made seven I am statements in the gospel of John, each claiming deity with God- the “Bread of Life,” the “Light of the World,” the “Door,” the “Good Shepherd,” the “Resurrection and the Life,” and the “Way the Truth and the Life.” During the last few days before His crucifixion, He said, “I am the True Vine.” (ch.6,8,9,10,11,14,15) Each statement highlights an aspect of God’s divine nature, but this final claim is particularly powerful in our daily walk with God.

Jesus is the True Vine, the source of everything, and we are the branches. This analogy would have been understood by people before and during the time of Christ, as God referred to Israel as a vineyard. (Isaiah 5:4,7) God the Father is the Vinedresser who tends the grapevines, pruning and cultivating them in order to produce the highest quantity and quality of grapes. Many Bible translations say the Father “cuts away,” or “takes away” branches that do not bear any fruit, which could sound as if the one who does not bear fruit is not saved by the blood of Christ. Because the Scripture says “Every branch ‘in Me’ that does not bear fruit...” implies that that branch is indeed in Christ. The Greek word used is “airo,” and it has several definitions, all of which could apply. “Airo” can be translated, “to raise to a higher place or position, lift up, take up, pick up, take away, carry off, to take and apply to any use, to take from among the living by natural death or violence, to cause to cease.” In a vineyard, new branches tend to sink to the ground where they are covered in mud and get no sunlight, making it impossible to bear fruit. In order to facilitate growth, the vinedresser washes them off and lifts them up, tying them to the top of the trellis. What keeps a Christian from bearing fruit? Whether it is immaturity or sin, God will deal with it because our purpose is to bear fruit. We cannot manufacture fruit. We can only bear it, thus we must abide in the vine.

When we abide in Him and bear fruit, God will then prune us so that we can bear much fruit and have great joy because our lives are eternally productive. God prunes, not to punish, but to perfect us.

The key to an effective and fruit-bearing life is in abiding in Christ, remaining with Him, soaking up His character and power. He can do anything in and through us when we abide in Him because we are in on His plan. The world will see that we love one another, laying down our lives or living sacrificially for those He puts in our path. Sacrificial love cannot be overlooked by a world that is in need of a Savior.

### WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus warned His disciples that they would be hated by the world as He is hated by the world. Because the world does not know Jesus it cannot understand true love and the need for salvation. The world hates light and revels in sin. They will die in of their unbelief. But God sent a “Helper,” the Holy Spirit, to His branches so we could bear witness to Him. We are not perfect. We sin, fail to grasp important truths, question His provision, doubt our own fruit-bearingness, and are dismayed by the way the world hates us on account of Jesus. But by abiding in Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit is like the sap flowing from the vine to the branches. It changes everything. Not only does the Helper cause us to remember, apply, live, and walk in truth, but we “worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.” (Philippians 3:3) We must not and cannot depend on our own flesh, but rather abide in the One who loves, empowers and makes our joy full so we can bear MUCH Fruit.

## Notes