

The True Vine Part 2

Pastor-Teacher Grant Castleberry

John 15:4-11

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Return to JOHN 15. The Picture provides us a RUBRIC of the CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- Jesus had said previously in John 14:6 – [6] *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

THE FRUIT is SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE of FAITH.

- A) Spiritual Virtues.
 - Galatians 5:22 – [22] *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
- B) Acceptable Worship.
 - Hebrews 13:15 – [15] *Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.*
- C) People Won to Christ.
 - Colossians 1:6 – [6] *the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing.*
- D) Peace-Making.
 - James 3:18 – [18] *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

JESUS says that this SPIRITUAL UNION (being connected to the vine) is what RESULTS in the bearing of FRUIT.

- Jesus said in the PARABLE of the SOWER. That SAVING FAITH always produces FRUIT. Matthew 13:8 – [8] *Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*
- Matthew 7:16 – [16] *You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? [17] So every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.*
- Matthew 12:33 – [33] *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.”*
- James 2:18 – [18] *But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me you faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*
- EVERY CHRISTIAN produces SPIRITUAL FRUIT.

God the FATHER intervenes so that FRUIT is produced from the VINE. John 15:1b – [1b] *and my Father is the vinedresser.*

- The goal of the VINEDRESSER. He is the FARMER.
 - Ephesians 2:10 – [10] *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
- The FATHER is the FATHER who sovereignly governs the BRANCHES in order that FRUIT is PRODUCED.

1) The Purification of the Vine

John 15:2 – [2] *Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away,*

- This is in REFERENCE to the “Professing Christians.”
- What GOD does (*airo*) He cuts them off; He sovereignly removes them.
 - 1 John 2:19 – [19] *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*
- God makes it plain that the pretenders are EXPOSED.

2) The Pruning of the Vine

The Father’s Desire is that the Branches Produce Fruit

John 15:2b – [2b] *and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

- God’s desire is that every BRANCH bears fruit. He PRUNES. He cuts them BACK... so that they keep BEARING more FRUIT.

3) The Grafting of the Vine

John 14:3 – [3] *Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*

- Clean is synonymous with being SAVED.
- John 13:10 *“And you are clean, but not every one of you.”*
- In this context it means you are grafted into the vine.
- It is the WORK of the WORD which makes you CLEAN.
 - Ephesians 5:26 – [26] *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.*
- You are GRAFTED in by the WORD. This is what CREATES FAITH.

4) The Fellowship of the Vine

This is a SECOND PART of the PROCESS.

John 15:4 – [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.*

- IMPERATIVE with a CONDITION. If you ABIDE in me, and I in you... then you will bear FRUIT.
- Abide means to REMAIN. To CONTINUE. To STAY.
- When a BRANCH maintains continuity with the VINE.
 - The SAP – the LIFE of the VINE flows into and through the BRANCHES.
- Andrew Murray – “Many believers pray and long very earnestly for the filling of the Spirit and the indwelling of Christ, and wonder that they not make more progress. The reason is often this, the “I in you” cannot come because the “abide in me” is not maintained.”
 - 1) CONTINUAL DEPENDENCE – There is to be complete dependence on the LORD JESUS CHRIST.
 - A. W. Pink – “It is the consciousness of my helplessness; it is the realization that severed from Him, I can do nothing.”
 - D. A. Carson – “Continuous dependence on the vine, constant reliance upon him, persistent spiritual imbibing of his life – this is the *sine qua non* of spiritual fruitfulness. The Christian or Christian organization that expands by external accretion, that merely apes Christian conduct and witness, but is not impelled by life within, brings forth dead crystals, not fruit.”
 - 2) CONTINUAL OBEDIENCE

- ABIDING looks a lot like OBEDIENCE to CHRIST.
- John 15:10 – [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.*
- John 14:21 – [21] *“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”*
- 1 John 2:4 – [4] *Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, [5] but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: [6] whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

John 15:5 – [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.*

- If you can focus on this FELLOWSHIP, then you will BEAR MUCH FRUIT.

5) The Warning of the Vine

John 15:6 – [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.*

THIS IS A WARNING to PROFESSORS. THOSE that CLAIM the NAME of CHRIST. To the Judas’s.

- IF THE BRANCH is not connected to CHRIST... If there is NO FELLOWSHIP...
 - It shows that it is not a TRUE CHRISTIAN.
 - FIRE... is REPRESENTATIVE of JUDGMENT.
- See Matt 3:12 – [12] *His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*
- Matt 13:40 – [40] *Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. [41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, [42] and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
- Matt 25:41 – [41] *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devils and his angels.’”*
- Hebrews 6:8 – [8] *But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.*

6) The Rewards of the Vine

A) Intercessory Prayer

John 15:7 – [7] *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

- Two Conditions for Answered Prayer
- 1) Abiding in Christ; 2) His Word Abiding in Us.
- Jesus also adds in JOHN that it must be asked according to his NAME.
 - John 14:13 – [13] *Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*
- IF we meet these CRITERIA... JESUS says that HE WILL HONOR that PRAYER.
- Spurgeon – “If we have no ear for Christ, He will have no ear for us.”

- UNANSWERED PRAYER – flows from the fruitlessness of disobedience to Christ and selfish prayers.
- James 4:3 – [3] *You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*

B) Assurance of Salvation

John 15:8 – [8] *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

- The FATHER is GLORIFIED.... That you BEAR FRUIT and PROVE to be HIS DISCIPLES.
- John 8:31 – [31] *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*
- In doing this... you have ASSURANCE of BEING CHRIST’S DISCIPLE and bring great GLORY to GOD.

C) The Experience of Joy

John 15:9 – [9] *As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love.*

John 15:10 – [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.*

- On the one hand... God’s love is already demonstrated.
- On the other hand.... Your enjoyment and continued experience of that LOVE is conditional.
 - You must OBEY. You must walk in OBEDIENCE to CHRIST.
 - Just as the SON walks in OBEDIENCE to the FATHER.
 - And you have a GREAT DEGREE of the EXPERIENCE of the LOVE of GOD.

John 15:11 – [11] *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be full.*