

# Abide in the Vine - Part 1 - John 15:1-5

Calvary Chapel Nuevo | Pastor Dave | Sunday, July 19, 2026

**Most Important Point:** We bear true spiritual fruit by living in ongoing communion with Christ.

Jesus uses the familiar picture of a grapevine to explain life as a true disciple. The Father is the Vinedresser, Jesus is the true Vine, and believers are the branches. Every expression of genuine spiritual life and fruitfulness must flow from Jesus Christ.

## **1) JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE - John 15:1**

- **Israel was often pictured as God's vine**, but Jesus declares that He is the TRUE Vine - the genuine and original source of spiritual life.
- **The final great "I AM" statement in John** means that Jesus does not merely point us toward life; He exists as the life-giving Vine.
- **The picture is simple:** the Father lovingly tends the vineyard, Jesus supplies the life, and we receive and carry that life as His branches.
- **The primary emphasis is fruitful discipleship**, not gaining or losing salvation. Jesus is teaching genuine believers how spiritual fruit is produced.

## **2) THE FATHER PRUNES THE BRANCHES - John 15:2-3**

- **Verse 2 contains a difficult expression.** Some understand "takes away" as lifting up or carrying; others see a branch that was never truly connected to the Vine. The central warning is clear: we do not want to remain fruitless.
- **The branch we want to be is the fruit-bearing branch**, because the true life of Jesus is flowing through it - and the Father prunes it so it will bear even more fruit.
- **Pruning is not judgment;** it is the Father's loving work of nurturing, correcting, and removing whatever hinders healthy growth and greater fruitfulness.
- **Pruning can be painful, and sometimes it includes discipline.** Hebrews 12 reminds us not to give up when the Lord corrects us, because afterward it produces a peaceful harvest of right living.
- **Some of God's deepest pruning occurs through relationships in the church.** We must be careful not to run when He confronts our pride, calls us to forgive, or reveals something in us that needs to change.

## **3) THE LIFE OF JESUS PRODUCES SPIRITUAL FRUIT - John 15:2-4**

- **The foundational fruit is life transformation and Christlikeness.** Galatians 5:22-23 describes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- **Colossians 3:12-17 expands the picture:** tenderhearted mercy, humility, forgiveness, harmony, Christ's peace, a life filled with His Word, grateful worship, and representing Jesus in what we say and do.

- **This fruit appears not perfectly, but progressively.** True disciples are still growing, but the character and life of Jesus should increasingly be visible in us.
- **We cannot manufacture this fruit or earn it by effort.** It is the supernatural result of our life abiding in Christ and the life of Christ abiding in us.
- **Pruning does not create the life; the Vine creates the life.** Pruning removes what hinders that life so the quality and quantity of the Vine's fruit can increase through us.
- **The disciples had already been cleansed by receiving Jesus' message,** but genuine salvation did not mean they were finished growing. The Word that brings us to faith also continues to cleanse and shape our lives.

#### **4) ABIDING MEANS ONGOING COMMUNION WITH CHRIST - John 15:4-5**

- **"Remain" or "abide" is repeated throughout this passage** because it is the central command. A branch has no independent life or fruit; it exists to carry the life of the Vine.
- **To abide means to remain where salvation placed us - in Christ.** We continually draw our nourishment, strength, direction, and spiritual life from Jesus.
- **Ongoing communion means continually returning to Him, depending on Him, listening to Him,** and refusing to deliberately live any area of life independently from Him.
- **We must not set aside communion with Christ** when we go to work, spend time with friends, use the computer, or enter any other part of ordinary life.
- **Apart from Christ we can do nothing of true spiritual fruitfulness.** Jesus is not calling us to manufacture fruit; He calls us to remain in Him and promises that His life in us will produce His fruit.

#### **RESPONSE**

- **Examine the connection:** Am I presently drawing my strength, direction, and spiritual life from Jesus?
- **Receive the pruning:** When the Father reveals something that needs to change, do I humbly surrender - or pridefully run?
- **Renew communion:** Where have I begun living independently from Christ, and what step will help me deliberately draw near to Him again?

#### **FINAL CHALLENGE**

- **Do not merely try harder to produce spiritual fruit.** Draw closer to Jesus, remain in ongoing communion with Him, and allow His life to flow into you and through you.
- **For those who have never received Christ,** the first step toward abiding is receiving forgiveness and eternal life by placing full faith in Jesus Christ - the true, life-giving Vine.

***Prayer:** Lord Jesus, keep me close to You. Give me humility to receive Your pruning, and cause Your life to produce Your fruit in me and through me.*

**KEY CROSS REFERENCES:** John 15:1-11 - Galatians 5:22-23 - Colossians 3:12-17 - Hebrews 12:5-11 - 1 John 2:24-28