
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



- I. [Sermon Recap](#)
- II. [Study Guide](#)
- III. [Devotional Material](#)
- IV. [Small Group Resources](#)
- V. [Announcements](#)

OCTOBER 12, 2025
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

I. SERMON RECAP

In Pastor Gary's recent sermon, he explored the profound statements made by Jesus Christ, with a particular focus on the declaration, "I am the true vine." Pastor Gary elaborated on how these words, spoken in a world often characterized by haste and superficiality, carry profound and lasting implications. He explained that the vine symbolizes a connection to divine sustenance and truth, unlike the hollow substitutes the world might offer. With great conviction, Pastor Gary emphasized the unique and fearless nature of Jesus' statement, highlighting His divinity and the unmatched love and sacrifice inherent in His life and mission.

Pastor Gary also distinguished the vine and the branches, illustrating the importance of remaining connected to Jesus to bear fruit in one's life. He addressed various members of the congregation, recognizing that some may feel like fallen branches, and urged them to seek renewed connection with the divine. He invited those who have never fully contemplated or engaged with Jesus' words to open a dialogue with Him, emphasizing that through this relationship, one finds true fulfillment and purpose. He stressed the necessity of dependence on Christ, encouraging the congregation to resist the cultural idolization of independence in favor of a life-giving reliance on the true vine.

Concluding with a personal testimony, Pastor Gary shared his transformative journey to faith, illustrating the profound change that occurs when one surrenders to Christ. He spoke candidly about his past struggles before saying yes to a relationship with God and how his life was renewed in a way he never anticipated. Pastor Gary extended an invitation to the congregation to embark on their own path of redemption through Christ, encouraging them to surrender their struggles and embrace the profound truth of His love and sacrifice. Through prayer, he led those seeking a deeper connection with God to confess and commit to a life intertwined with the true vine, ensuring they are never apart from His grace and guidance.

Key Points

Chapter 1: The Profound Nature of Jesus' Statements

Introduction to the profound statements of Jesus and their deep implications.

Chapter 2: The Uniqueness of 'I Am the True Vine'

Examination of Jesus' statement 'I am the true vine' and its significance.

Chapter 3: The Vine and Branch Relationship

Exploration of the relationship between the vine (Jesus) and the branches (believers).

Chapter 4: The Call to Connection and Transformation

Invitation to connect with Christ and experience transformation.

II. STUDY GUIDE

Key Points:

- Jesus' statement, "I am the true vine," is profound and unique
- The importance of connecting to Christ as the source of life
- The necessity of dependence on God rather than independence
- The transformative power of a relationship with Jesus
- The danger of being apart from Christ and the emptiness it brings
- The importance of honest dialogue with God
- The process of pruning in the Christian life
- The reality that, apart from Christ, we can do nothing of eternal value

Key Scripture

John 15:1-5 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Matthew 10:34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Matthew 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

Other Relevant Verses

John 6:35 - Jesus says, "I am the bread of life" (alluded to in the sermon)

Genesis 1:1-3 - Creation account (alluded to when discussing God creating the universe)

Zephaniah 3:17 - God singing over His people (alluded to in the sermon)

James 1:2 - "Consider it pure joy when you face many trials" (paraphrased in the sermon)

Acts 26:14 - "Kicking against the goads" (phrase used in the sermon)

1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (paraphrased in the sermon)

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (alluded to in the sermon)

1 Timothy 2:5 - "There is one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus" (paraphrased in the sermon)

Psalms 1:3 - Imagery of a tree planted by streams of water, relating to the vine metaphor

Isaiah 5:1-7 - The song of the vineyard, providing Old Testament context for the vine metaphor

Romans 11:17-24 - Paul's use of the olive tree metaphor, similar to the vine metaphor

Galatians 5:22-23 - The fruit of the Spirit, relating to the concept of bearing fruit mentioned in John 15

Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," relating to dependence on Christ

Colossians 2:6-7 - Encouragement to be rooted in Christ, similar to the vine metaphor

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1: The True Vine

Question: How does Jesus' statement 'I am the true vine' challenge our understanding of His identity and role in our lives?

Reading: John 15:1-8

Devotional: Jesus declares, "I am the true vine." This statement invites us to consider our connection to Christ. Just as branches cannot bear fruit apart from the vine, we cannot truly flourish without a deep, abiding relationship with Jesus. Today, reflect on your connection to the True Vine.

Are you drawing nourishment from Christ daily? Consider areas of your life where you may be trying to operate independently from God. Pray for a renewed sense of dependence on Him, recognizing that apart from Christ, we can do nothing of eternal value.

Day 2: God's Unfailing Love

Question: How does the concept of God 'singing over us' impact our perception of His love and care for us individually?

Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: The sermon emphasized God's relentless love for us, even describing Him as singing songs of deliverance over us. Today's passage reinforces this incredible truth: nothing can separate us from God's love. Reflect on times when you've felt distant from God or questioned His love. Remember that His love isn't based on your performance or worthiness, but on His unchanging character.

Take time to listen in prayer, asking God to help you hear His "songs of deliverance" over your life. How might fully embracing God's love change your perspective on current challenges?

Day 3: The Power of Truth

Question: In what areas of your life do you struggle to bring honest truth before God, and why?

Reading: John 8:31-32, Ephesians 4:25

Devotional: The sermon stressed the importance of truth and the destructive nature of lies. Jesus, the True Vine, embodies perfect truth. As His followers, we're called to live in truth and speak truth.

Examine your life today - are there areas where you've compromised on honesty, either with others or yourself? Confess any deception to God, asking for His forgiveness and the strength to walk in integrity. Consider how embracing truth, even when difficult, can lead to greater freedom and deeper relationships with both God and others.

Day 4: Finding Identity in Christ

Question: In what ways have you experienced the transformative power of surrendering your life to Christ, or what holds you back from doing so?

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20

Devotional: Pastor Gary recounted a powerful testimony of transformation through Christ. When we connect to the True Vine, our identity is fundamentally changed. We become new creations, no longer defined by our past sins or failures. Reflect on how your identity in Christ differs from worldly identities you may have embraced.

Are there old patterns or self-perceptions you need to let go of? Pray for a renewed mind, asking God to help you see yourself as He sees you - forgiven, beloved, and full of purpose in Him.

Day 5: Abiding Through Trials

Question: What does it mean to truly 'abide' in Christ, and how can we make this a daily practice?

Reading: James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5

Devotional: The sermon touched on the reality of trials and the necessity of "pruning" in our spiritual lives. While difficult, these experiences can deepen our connection to the True Vine and produce spiritual growth. Consider current challenges you're facing. How might God be using these to shape your character or draw you closer to Him? Rather than merely enduring trials, ask God for the strength to "consider it pure joy" as James encourages. Pray for perseverance and the ability to see your circumstances from an eternal perspective, trusting that God is working all things for your good and His glory.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Small Group Guide: "I Am the True Vine"

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' statement "I am the true vine" is profound and unique, setting Him apart from all others.
2. Connection to Christ as the vine is crucial for spiritual life and fruitfulness.
3. Apart from Christ, we can do nothing of eternal significance.
4. God prunes us to promote growth and fruitfulness in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The pastor emphasized the uniqueness of Jesus' "I am" statements. How do these statements impact your view of Jesus?
3. Discuss the difference between a vine and a branch. How does this analogy help you understand your relationship with Christ?
4. The sermon mentioned the importance of dependence on God. In what areas of your life do you struggle with being dependent on God?
5. The pastor said, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." How do you interpret this statement in light of your daily life and activities?
6. How can we maintain an honest and open dialogue with God, as suggested in the sermon?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Connection: Commit to spending time each day this week in prayer and Bible reading to strengthen your connection to the "true vine."
2. Honest Dialogue: Write a letter to God expressing your honest thoughts, doubts, or questions. Reflect on how this exercise impacts your relationship with Him.
3. Dependence Check: Identify one area in your life where you need to practice more dependence on God. Share with the group how you plan to do this.
4. Fruit Inspection: Reflect on the "fruit" in your life. Are there areas where you see growth? Areas that need pruning?
5. Share Your Story: Like the pastor shared his testimony, consider sharing your own story of coming to faith or a significant moment of growth with someone this week.

Closing Prayer

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are **NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES ON 10/15**. Due to the closure of US 64 through the coming week, there will be no Wednesday Night Activities. **Recovery Alive will be held on Zoom; contact Micah@cbchighlands.com for information.**

Remember, the church is taking donations for Angel Tree all month long! Be sure to designate “Angel Tree” in your giving if you wish to participate in that.

The Men’s super awesome spectacular fantastic extravaganza takes place Friday and Saturday, October 17th and 18th. Pray for their time away in fellowship.

This Sunday, there is a congregational meeting with the intent to select a new elder. All church members are eligible to vote on this and encouraged to do so.

The Youth head to Whisper Mountain November 14-16th. There is still time to get signed up for that!

As always, contact Info@cbchighlands.com or call the church office at (828) 526-4685 for more information.