

ABIDE IN THE VINE

Saturday July 29, 2023

John 15

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** 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. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** 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.

5 “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. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. - NIV

Times of Pruning

- **Arborists and Gardeners know there are various types of pruning**
 1. **Deadwooding or dead heading – Removing all branches and leaves that are devoid of life**
 2. **Tip pruning – Removing live growth that will enable the plant/tree to be more fruitful**
 3. **Strategic Shaping – Intervening in the tree or plant at a key moment**
 4. **Radical pruning – My grandfather's example**
- **You may not like the sound of pruning**
 - **It is part of the Christian life**
 - **God prunes us personally**
 - **He also prunes churches and organizations**
- **We are in a season of pruning**

Philippians 2

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not
only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue
to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God
who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good
purpose.

Philippians 2

14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **15** so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky **16** as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. - NIV

➤ Humility

- Jesus - Take my yoke upon you I am gentle and humble

➤ Teaming over Selfish Ambition

➤ Work out your SOZO

➤ God will raise you up!

- His plans for ROL . . .