



[The New Relationships](#)

John 15:1-25

Wayne Braudrick

October 12, 2025

Life Change: We enjoy friendship with Jesus

Heavy storms dislocated branches

We relate to Jesus

1-11

Key verb = remain

Key nouns = fruit, love, & joy

We relate to our brethren

12-17

Key verb = love

They are to love one another as those who are loved by Jesus. Thus, the loving self-giving of Jesus is the root and power of the new agape. The commandment is imperative [not optional], but the absolute determination of agape by Christ, its rootage in the love of Jesus, causes it to transcend all nomistic moralism. – Gottlob Shrenk, “Agape”

Key noun = friends

We relate to the world

18-25

Key verb = hate

Key nouns = word & name

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THE
NEW
LIFE

JOHN 13 - 21

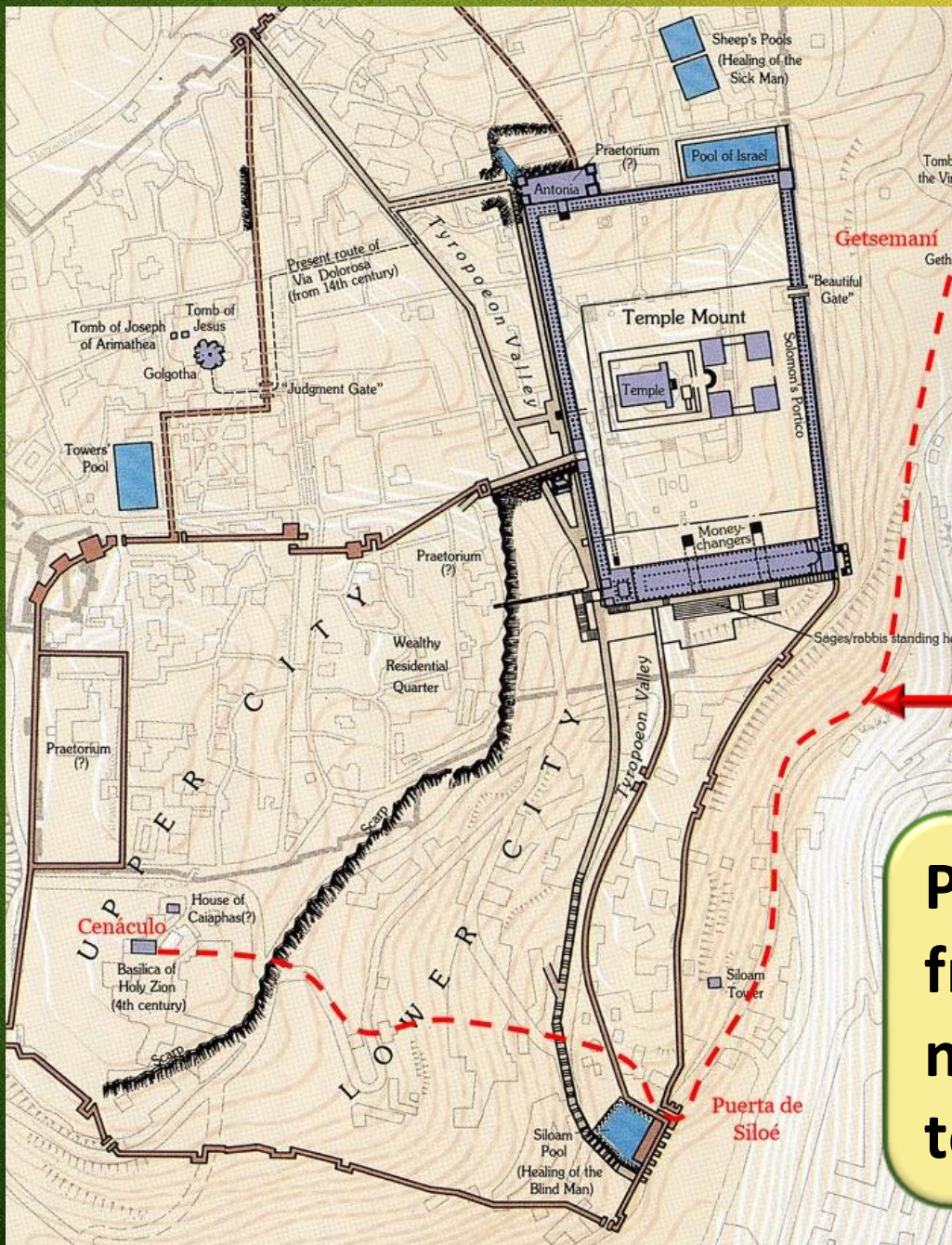
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courtesy hdpapers

John 15



**Probable route
from the Passover
meal (Upper Room)
to Gethsemane**

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers.

They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

⁹ As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

John 15 CSB

The new relationships detailed in John 15

Because of Jesus, Christians:

- **Have a new connection with the Lord.**
- **Enjoy a new relationship with our brethren.**
- **Relate differently to the world.**

Christians:

Have a new connection with the Lord. 1-11.

Key verb = remain.

Key nouns = fruit, love, & joy.

Enjoy a new relationship with our brethren. 12-17.

Key verb = love.

Key noun = friends.

Relate differently to the world. 18-25.

Key verb = hate.

Key nouns = word & name.

Key verb = remain

⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.



Greek: μένω meno = remain; abide; dwell

**μονήν monen = home, rooms, or mansion
(noun form only in John 14)**

- In the 4th c. B.C., Plato describes a plant that is “meno.” This shoot stands firm in a storm because it is well rooted and tied to the larger plant. [See *Protagoras*.]
- Friedrich Preisigke collected a trove of Greek documents from Egypt. He found a number of letters – stretching from Alexander the Great to the 2nd c. A.D. – that portray plants as meno because they are “staying alive.” (See *Sammelbuch Griechischer Urkunden aus Ägypten*.)
- Epictetus lived later than the Apostle John, but their lives overlapped. Epictetus used meno to explain how a branch flourished because it “remained in the sphere of connection to the vine.” [See *Arrian’s Discourses of Epictetus*.]

Key verb = remain

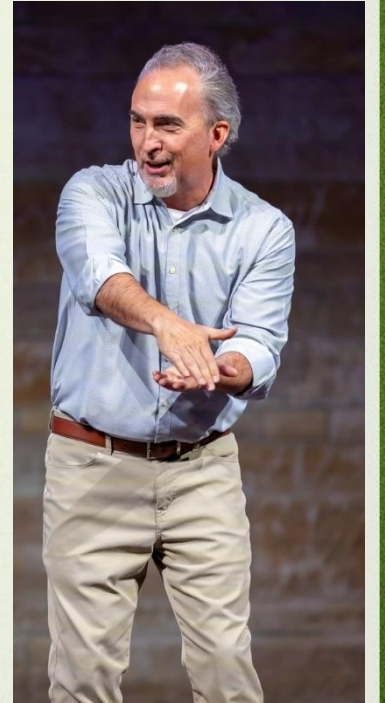
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A life void of true connection to God is meaningless. Even a life with temporary success or worldly fame apart from God is a mark of an empty life. Fruitful Christian living boils down to one word—abiding. The most important thing that any believer can do is to abide in Christ. As we abide, His Word takes root in our hearts and bears fruit in our lives. – Mark Yarborough, “The Secret to a Fruitful Life”





⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.



⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

**¹⁰ “One who has bathed,”
Jesus told him, “doesn’t need to
wash anything except his feet, but
he is completely clean.”**

John 13 CSB

**³ “You are already clean because
of the word I have spoken to you.”**

John 15 CSB

The vinedresser comes in and cleans up the [barren branch] with his disciplinary hand. But He doesn't take away our salvation, only our reward. The original Greek in verse 6 is definite: the Christian who lives in the power of the flesh is thrown away as "a branch." The believer never ceases to be a branch, no matter how barren that branch becomes. And furthermore, the Father does not put that branch in the fire, but rather the [fruit], the works done in the power of the flesh. Notice the plural *them* could not refer to the singular *branch*. – Ken Gire and Charles Swindoll, *Beholding Christ*

¹³ Each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. ¹⁴ If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3 CSB

**So how does one “remain?” I know
how a plant can meno. How does it
work for a person in Jesus?**

**celebrity gardener
Alan Titchmarsh**



⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love.”

¹¹ “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

John 15 CSB

Fruitfulness - Score self on a 1-10 scale:

- **People in my orbit regularly come to faith or grow deeper in Christ.**
- **Spiritual disciplines have become so regular that they are now normative.**
- **The fruit of the Spirit bleeds through the warp & woof of my life.**



Love - True or False:

- I truly desire God's best blessings on my political enemies.
- Agape (unconditional, self-sacrificial, other-centered care) is so endemic to my soul that I automatically think of others first in every situation.



Joy - True or False:

- **My sense of delight is unshaken, even when my team loses (if not a sports fan, insert other appropriate pain, such as: “my favorite dress is ruined,” “I am rejected for the position,” etc.)**
- **People regularly comment on the encouragement I bring to every situation.**



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John 15 CSB

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John 15 CSB

**“What does it mean to
remain in Jesus?”**



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John 15 CSB

For the grape branch, attachment to the vine gives life and enables the natural production of fruit. The attachment is not glue or magnetic or mechanical adhesion, but interwoven, living connection. Life flows from the vine to the branches and the branches are made part of the life of the vine. Implied in this is utter, complete dependence on God working through Messiah Jesus. – Martin MacDonald

**¹² “This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you.
¹³ No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.
¹⁵ I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.
¹⁷ This is what I command you: Love one another.”**

Christians:

Have a new connection with the Lord. 1-11.

Key verb = remain.

Key nouns = fruit, love, & joy.

Enjoy a new relationship with our brethren. 12-17.

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Inclusio

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¹⁷ This is what I command you: Love one another.”

- **We love Christians as Jesus has loved us. That means we lay our lives down for each other. [12-13]**
- **We do this willfully, as friends, not as slaves. [14]**
- **We do this mindfully, knowing the cost of sacrifice just as Jesus did. [15]**
- **We do this as Jesus' elect partakers in His plan. [16]**

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John 15 CSB

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Friends sacrifice.

Friends understand.

Friends accept the commission of their compatriots.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.



**Greek: ἐντέλλομαι entellomai
= command; from a king or
military leader, a commission
or orders willingly accepted**



The great Greek historian Herodotus used *entellomai* to describe how King Croesus of Lydia gave his sub-kings their commission to faithfully oversee the empire.

Greek: ἐντέλλομαι entellomai = command; from a king or military leader, a commission or orders willingly accepted



When Xenophon writes about Agamemnon's emotional commissioning to his brother and the other leaders of his army, Xenophon uses entellomai to describe the battle plan.

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In one of the last notes Dan wrote me before his untimely death, he said, “Wayne, now that they are grown, we should always keep praying for each other’s kids.” – Dan

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¹⁸ “If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they don’t know the one who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin.

Now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ The one who hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴ If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But this happened so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: *They hated me for no reason. [Psalm 69:4]*”

John 15 CSB

18 “If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. 20 Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.”

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When John wrote, this hatred had long since begun. Tacitus spoke of the people “hated for their crimes, whom the mob call Christians.” Why was this hatred so virulent? Because the government regarded them as disloyal citizens. It is a great mistake to think that the subject peoples resented Roman government; for the most part they were profoundly grateful for it. Rome brought justice...peace, and prosperity. And that spirit of Rome became symbolized in the Emperor; thus every inhabitant of the empire burned a pinch of incense to Caesar.

But that is precisely what the Christians would not do. The government persecuted the Christians because they insisted they had no king but Christ. Persecution came to the Christians because they put Christ first. Persecution always comes to the man who does that. – William Barclay, *John*

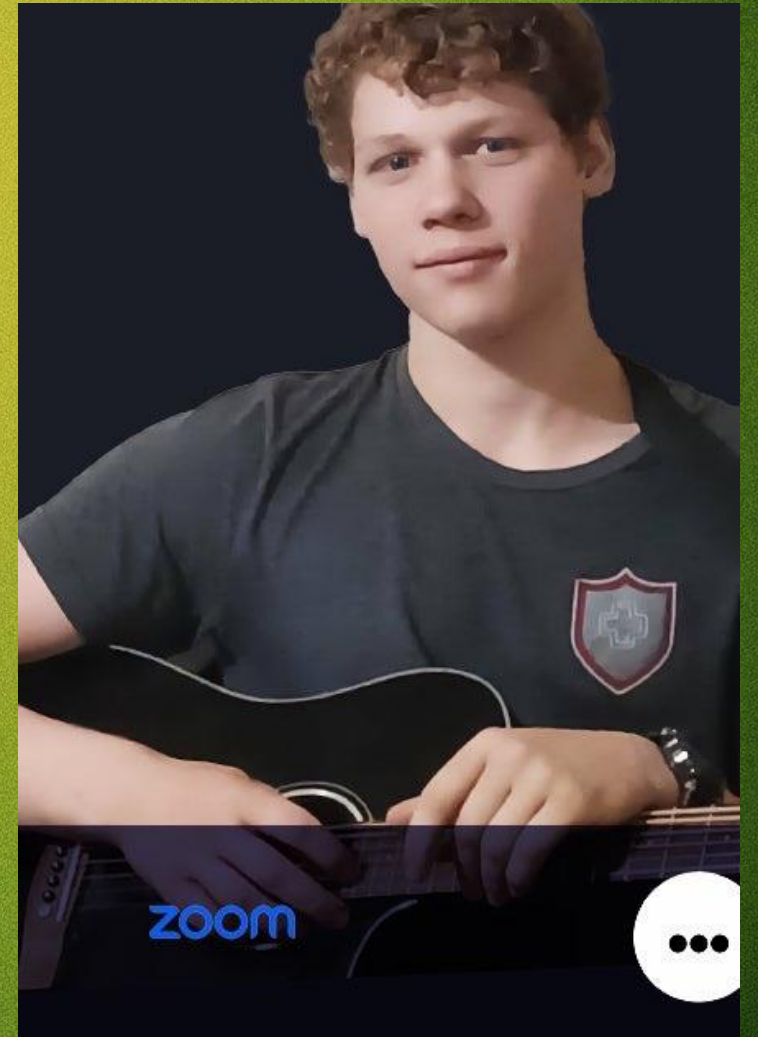
The promise of suffering for the church is a distinction in the history and literature of God's people...Simply stated, believers in the OT suffered *for their lack of faith (or disobedience)*, while believers in the NT are *promised suffering for their obedient faith*. – Cory Marsh, “On Account of My Name,” an ecclesial shift through righteous suffering in John





The Rev. James Audu Issa of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) in the Ekati area of Kwara state Nigeria was kidnapped from his home within ECWA premises. His Islamist captors demanded an exorbitant sum of 100 million naira (\$62,500 USD). According to Afripost Newspaper, the kidnappers declared that they particularly target Christians because “We hate them. And they care so much about each other they will pay very high ransoms.”

Every day, students at Arkansas Connections Academy have a “social time” Zoom meeting to talk about whatever they want, provided the comments are not violent, vulgar or obscene. Inspired by the recent memorial service for Charlie Kirk, high school student Zion Ramos felt compelled to share his faith in a two-minute statement. Suddenly, the teacher muted him. Once he realized he was muted, Zion unmuted himself to continue sharing his message. However, as he spoke, the teacher removed him from the Zoom call.



²⁰ Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.
²¹ But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they don’t know the one who sent me.

John 15 CSB

²³ For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. ²⁴ As the Scriptures say, *“People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. ²⁵ But the word of the Lord remains forever [Isaiah 40].”*

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John 15 CSB

**¹⁰ ...At the name of Jesus
every knee will bow—
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth—
¹¹ and every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Philippians 2 CSB

**So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
Till all thy creatures own thy sway.**

"The day Thou gavest" John Ellerton, 1870





courtesy Christianity Today

119th CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 2747 To require the Secretary of State to designate the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern, to impose certain sanctions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 9, 2025

Mr. Cruz introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the “Nigeria Religious Freedom Accountability Act of 2025”.





courtesy First Liberty

Christians:

Have a new connection with the Lord. We can remain in Him and experience fruit, love, & joy.

Enjoy a new relationship with our brethren. We can love them because Jesus commissions us to do so as His friends.

Relate differently to the world. We don't return hate, but trust in the word and name of Jesus.

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