

# 07/19/20 Notes

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Part of Just Getting Started A series on the Gospel of John  
July 16, 2020

## Message: The True Vine

### Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the 22nd week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

## Significance of Vine

James used the word "vine" in an illustration:

### ***James 3:12 (NLT)***

Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

James was making the point – what you say is a direct reflection of what's in your heart. You can't live for Jesus and it not be reflected in what you say or how you live.

*So, if you want figs, go to a fig tree. If you want fresh water to drink, don't get it from the ocean. You want grapes, go to a grapevine. It's a matter of relationship – it's a connection – and the connecting point is the vine!*

—Pastor Chad

### ***John 15:1-11 (NLT)***

- 1 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.
- 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.
- 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.

10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

- Jesus tells us He is the TRUE vine [v1]
- God our Father is the GARDENER [v1]

## **Producing Fruit**

The “three P’s” of growth

- PREPARE
- PLANT
- PRODUCE / REPRODUCE

- We are the BRANCHES [v5]

*On its own, a branch is weak and useless. A branch is good for either bearing or burning, but not for building. The branch cannot produce its own life, it must draw that life from the vine.*

—Warren Wiersbe

You can’t have fruit without the branches and the branches must be connected to the vine! The vine makes the branches essential; the

vine gives the branches identity... function... purpose.

*Do you see the correlation? Without Jesus, the vine, we have no identity, no valuable function, no purpose. But with Jesus, everything changes! We have identity! We are valuable! We have purpose!*

*-Pastor Chad*

## **Pruning**

Pruning maintains or improves health and quality. Pruning changes or trains growing patterns. Sometimes it enhances growth and sometimes it restricts growth.

One word is used 10 times in this passage:

- Jesus tells us to REMAIN

Verse 4 – Remain in Me; I will remain in you; Remain in Me

Verse 5 – Remain in Me

Verse 6 – Remain in Me

Verse 7 – Remain in Me; My words remain in you

Verse 9 – Remain in My love

Verse 10 – Remain in My love; remain in My Father's love

- Remaining in Jesus is a LIFESTYLE
  - purified by God's Word [v3]
  - produces much fruit [v5]
  - filled with answered prayers [v7]
  - learning and growing [v8]
  - giving glory to God [v8]
  - obeying God's commandments [v10]
  - overflowing with joy [v11]

## **Jesus Goes on to Say**

### ***John 15:12-17 (NLT)***

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

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

15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

17 This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus calls it the "Great" or "New" commandment - it's spoke of in several places including John 13:34:

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."

Jesus preached it. He taught it. He lived it.

- If you obey Jesus, if you follow His commands, then you are His FRIEND [v14]

Being a friend of God is a privileged position, but it also brings humility into focus. It's privileged because:

- God CHOSE you [v16]

*It doesn't get any more personal than that. You're a branch on His vine because He wants you and He loves you. But you have a choice to make - either to remain or be removed from the vine. He wants you, but do you want Him?*

*-Pastor Chad*

- If you're not connected to the vine, you REJECT Jesus
  - You are cut off from the vine [v2, v4]
  - You are thrown away to be burned [v6]
  - Your prayers are not answered [v7]
  - You are not filled with joy [v11]
  - You don't show others the love of Jesus [v17]

Are you connected to the vine?