

Read Passage

John 15:1-17 - I am the Vine

Context:

Jesus is having the Last Supper and parting words with His disciples [John 13-17]. He has just washed their feet (John 13), indicated that Judas Iscariot will betray Him (and sent Judas away to do so) [John 13:21-30], and introduced them to the news that He would be sending the Holy Spirit to 'teach you all things'. [John 14:25]. **The audience consists of His faithful disciples** (Judas Iscariot has now left).

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZQVD89AyA>

Section shown in sermon is from 1:30 to 4:01

What this passage is... and isn't:

It is: A description of God's constant 'pruning' of believers into branches that bear healthy fruit. Even mature vines need constant pruning!

It isn't: A description of God's eternal wrath towards the nonbeliever. Think back on the video: The entire A call to walking path is covered with dead/pruned branches from a healthy vine.

It is: A call to unify our thoughts, prayers, and purposes to His will (ABIDE)

It isn't: A promise that He'll give us whatever we ask for (v 7b). Don't latch on to the latter half of verse 7 and ignore the beginning. If we abide in Him, what we ask will be in alignment with His will!

What do we learn about God in this passage?

He is active(1-2).

He is the source of our fruit (v4).

He is our sustenance. Apart from Him, we can do nothing (v. 5)

He is glorified in our bearing fruit (v.8)

He is our friend (v.14).

What is this 'fruit'?

Galatians 5:22-23: ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Why bear fruit? Who is the fruit for?

We often view the fruit of the Spirit as an end goal....As if the fruit is for us. The apple tree doesn't consume its own fruit.... It creates the fruit for others to consume, and through that consumption by others... the seed spreads! The fruit of the Spirit is the same! God grows fruit in us so that others may consume it and His gospel spreads! Abiding in God's will is impossible if we aren't in a position to share our fruit. (v17)

Application - Abide

- Abide in me and I in you... what does that mean?
- How do we abide? V10 says "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love".

Pray

Study (individual and corporately)

Do

- Why do we abide? ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Discussion Question: So what about verse 6... that seems like final judgement?

Discussion Question: So why the burning?

Discussion Question: What did this passage reveal about God to you? What is the most comforting characteristic of God you see here? Anything uncomfortable?

What emotions/thoughts does the following statement elicit? "Your life exists to grow in Christ and develop fruit FOR OTHERS. Only in this is true joy found."