



I AM THE TRUE VINE

I am the vine; you are the branches. John 15:5

...I [Paul] count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things...so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection... Philippians 3:8-10

MAIN IDEA: LIFE FLOWS OUT OF CONNECTION WITH JESUS

WHY IS BEING CONNECTED IMPORTANT?

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. John 15:1

1. STAYING CONNECTED PRODUCES **FRUIT**

*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.* John 15:5

WHAT IS "FRUIT"? FRUIT IS THE **DIRECT PRODUCT OF MY CHARACTER AND THAT WHICH IS WORKING IN ME.**

So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Matthew 7:17-18 (NASB)

INTERNAL

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

THE BRANCH OF THE VINE DOES NOT WORRY, AND TOIL, AND RUSH HERE TO SEEK FOR SUNSHINE, AND THERE TO FIND RAIN. NO; IT RESTS IN UNION AND COMMUNION WITH THE VINE; AND AT THE RIGHT TIME, AND IN THE RIGHT WAY, IS THE RIGHT FRUIT FOUND ON IT. LET US SO ABIDE IN THE LORD JESUS. – HUDSON TAYLOR

EXTERNAL

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

2. BEING DISCONNECTED PRODUCES **NOTHING**

...apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

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. John 15:6

HOW DO WE STAY CONNECTED TO THE VINE?

1. **DO** WHAT JESUS SAYS

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love... John 15:10

2. **LOVE** LIKE JESUS LOVES

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

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