

John 15

Love

I. True Vine

1 "I am the true vine

- Vine; i.e. the trunk of tree where nutrients distributed to branches
- **Jesus is the True Vine will bear good fruit**

1b... My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

- **God the Father is the loving wise gardener...**
 1. Cuts off dead fruitless branches, **allowing...**
 2. More life-giving nutrients to branches **already producing...**

Matthew 25:29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable [wicked/lazy] servant into the outer darkness.

- Those who do not bear fruit will be cut off/taken away as a useless branch
- Those who bear fruit will bear even more as they are pruned; i.e. disciplined Heb 12

From these words, it is clear that, many of the afflictions which we have to endure are not brought upon us because we are unfruitful, but because we are bearing fruit. [Spurgeon]

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

- Already Clean/Set Apart because of My Word

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.**

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and **cleanse her with the washing of water by the word**, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- **Already clean:**
 1. Heard/believed the Word
 2. Tasted that the Lord is good
 3. Drawing you to Himself
 4. **Now...**

4 **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless

it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

- **Abide:** gr. *me'-nō*. Remain, dwell, continue, tarry endure

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**.

Branch not connected to tree bears no fruit
Person not abiding in Jesus can do nothing of lasting eternal value

- Abide with Jesus and bear much fruit
- **Fruit:** Change in our lives and others lives...either good/bad

Jesus: Hang out with Me and bear much good fruit!

Acts 4:13 [Religious Leaders] saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

- People notice when we spend time with /abide in Jesus

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Eternal Security? Once saved always saved?
We are Eternally Secure as we abide in Christ. Chuck Smith

- **Too many burnt out Shooting Stars:** Seem to burn bright...then burn out.
- Saved or just "tasted that the Lord is good"? Judas did and was not saved.

Enduring Faith is proof of Saving Faith

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. [Shallow Soil; received w/gladness but trials and goodbye]

Enduring Faith is Saving Faith

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— **23 if indeed you continue in the faith**, grounded and steadfast, and are **not moved away** from the hope of the gospel which you heard

- Sustained Faith proves Genuine Saving faith. Enduring Faith is Saving Faith

We are not saved because we abide...we abide because we are saved

- We didn't work to receive Salvation...We can't work to keep our Salvation

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

- **Falling from Grace:** Trying to be good enough instead or resting in finished work

True Believers: Not only Saved by the Son of God but **sealed by the Spirit of God...**

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit** of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

IF we are truly saved...we are surely kept!

Jude 1:1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved in Jesus Christ:** Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

1 Peter 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are **kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- **Are the cut off branches those who lost their Salvation?**

1. Wrong question
2. Fruitless question

We are Eternally Secure as we abide in Christ. Fruitless cast off and burned?

And oh! how many come to this end! They did seem to be all that the fruit-bearing branches are, but they were never saved souls, for saved souls always bring forth fruits of righteousness. Their salvation is proved by their fruitfulness. But these appeared to be all that the others were, and after a while they were discovered, and cast into the fire and burned. [Spurgeon]

Right Question for those who serious about seeking the heart of Jesus?

What does it mean to abide to abide in Jesus?

- **Question re. questions:** How will debating this question help my walk or others?

Fruitful Question: What does Jesus mean when He says to abide in Him?

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

- Abiding in Christ super-naturally conforms our will to the will of God
 1. Love what He loves
 2. Hate what He hates
 3. Want what He wants for you; i.e. the best

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

- No longer want/need a nice car but to see your neighbor know the Lord
- Transformed by Word abiding in us...

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

No longer want to grieve the Spirit with bitterness/unforgiveness/selfishness
Now have Mind of Christ yielding our lives to God's desires and the best for others

8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- **Mark of a disciple:** Abiding in Christ and bearing Good Fruit; change

Problem? Still don't know what abiding in Christ means at street level

SUMMARY True Vine and Branches

II. Love and Joy as we Abide

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love.**

- **Q.** How do I abide in order to bear fruit and glorify God v8
- **A.** Abide in Jesus love v9
- **Q.** How do I abide in Jesus Love

10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

If I can figure this out **my joy will be full!**

- **Q.** How do I abide in order to bear fruit and glorify God v8
- **A.** Abide in My love
- **Q.** How do I abide in Jesus Love
- **A.** Keep My commandments and you will abide in My love, bear fruit, glorify God
- **Q.** What commandments do I keep to abide Jesus love, bear good fruit, Glorify God

12 This is My commandment, that you **love one another as I have loved you.** 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- Love one another by laying down your life...

14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

Those that love one another are Jesus friends

Those that don't are not. Upmost Importance

- What does loving one another "as Jesus loves us" look like on the ground?
- Love is expressed in Humility. Humility is expressed in laying down our lives
 1. Laying down our "Rights" ...even willing to be wronged
 2. Setting aside Unforgiveness/Bitterness...even when justified in worlds eyes
 3. Putting away Revenge/ not being Suspicious...thinking the best
 4. Exchanging Gossip/Slander for praying for one another
 5. Forsaking personal Comfort...taking time for others. Loving as Jesus loved

Draw me close to you Never let me go **I lay it all down again** To hear you say that I'm your friend You are my desire No one else will do '[Be] Cause nothing else can take your place To feel the warmth of your embrace Help me find the way Bring me back to you [Michael W. Smith]

- Love is expressed in humility. Humility means laying down our lives...

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren.**

- To love like Jesus...

1 John 4:17 [That]... as **He is**, so **are we** in this world

- **Friends of Jesus do what Jesus does...Period**

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, **he is a liar**; for **he who does not love his brother** whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have **called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

- **Concluding Instructions**

1. On way to Garden of Gethsemane
2. I've told you all My Father gave Me to tell you...

One more thing...just in from the Father

16 You **did not choose Me**, but **I chose you** and **appointed you** that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I

command you, that you love one another.

- **I chose you:** Comforting Words...

Ephesians 1:4 ...[God] chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him **in love**, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the **good pleasure of His will...**

- **Q. When did He choose us?** A. Before He formed the world
- **Q. Why did He choose us?**
 1. To be holy and blameless
 2. To be His sons/daughters
 3. To be His joy/pleasure

I chose you: Encouragement for what is coming...v18

- I appointed you...to bear fruit; see good change in us/others as we abide
- **I command you...**
 1. Love one another
 2. Love your neighbor
 3. Love your enemies
- **Now I will prepare you...**

Don't love to be loved: Result? Disappointment

Love because I told you to love: Reward? Fullness of Joy v11

III. Love Unreciprocated: Not for Faint Hearted

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

- **You watched Me the last 3 Years...**
 1. The more I loved people the more I was hated by the world
 2. The more you love the more you will be hated by the world

19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

- **Facts:**
 1. We are not of the world
 2. We were called out of the world... to be different *than the world*
 3. Because we are different/standard we will be hated

If we did what they do they would accept us. When we stopped, we were shunned

1 Peter 4:3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles [non-believers]—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking

parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, [unbelievers] think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation [indulgences], **speaking evil of you**. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

- **Bring it on...**We rejoice in tribulation

Romans 6:21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

- World will not embrace/acknowledge good work God has done in you
- **World will persecute us as we love like Jesus...**

20 Remember the word that I said 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 keep yours also.

- **Get ready**
 1. **Good News:** If they will love Me they will love you
 2. **Bad News:** If they hate Me they will hate you

21 But all these things they will do to you **for My name's sake**, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

Don't take their insults, slander, hatred personally

- They are not hating you...but God
- **God to Samuel:** "They are not rejecting you but Me"
- **When they insulted Jesus, they were insulting the Father**

Psalms 69:9 ...zeal [passion] for Your house has eaten me up [consumed Me], And the reproaches of those who reproach [God] have fallen on me.

- The world will hate the things that are pure/good/just and authority that declares it

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is **no authority except from God**, and the authorities that exist are **appointed by God**. 2 Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

The Battle for the heart of America? Rule of Law vs. all out Lawlessness

- Police, Judges, those in power will be hated for audacity of claiming there are rules
- Anyone that claims sinful man must change their lawless ways will be hated

God coming to earth to make a way makes all men accountable for sin...

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

After Jesus Life, Death, Resurrection there is no excuse for sin
He is the medicine/antidote for Sin/Death/Hell; available to all who confess their need

Mark 2:17 [Jesus to religious leaders] "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, **but sinners, to repentance.**"

- Before Jesus 1st Coming: Law of Moses made man accountable
- After Jesus 1st Coming: Shedding of His blood men are exponentially more accountable

Hebrews 10:28 Anyone who has **rejected Moses' law dies without mercy** on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace?**

- Jesus is the litmus test of where an individual will spend forever. Prophesied in OT

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

23 He who hates Me hates My Father also.

- Hate Jesus and you hate God. Period
 1. **Muslims:** God has no Son
 2. **Cults:** Son of God is not God the Son but less; angel/created being

24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

If I did not come to earth and prove who I was they would have no sin

- If Jesus didn't come/do what was foretold in His Word the world would have no sin
- Because Jesus did come/do the works of God the world is forced into decision

**Love and Submit to Jesus and Live
Hate and Resist Jesus and Die**

- Jesus was hated and rejected...

25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

- Jesus brought the Light of the Father into the world and was rejected

John 3:19 ... this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- Rejecting Jesus is rejecting your only means of Salvation

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from

the beginning.

- **My Spirit will speak My truth through you to a dying world...**
 1. **Some will accept My Word through you:** Sweet smelling aroma unto life
 2. **Some will reject My Word through you:** Smell of death/they will hate you
- **Fear of rejection:** Not an option for Christian who wants to hear "Good and faithful..."

1 John 3:12 [Worlds envy/hatred of wicked is like] ...Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

SUMMARY As you do what I command...people will hate you