

Abiding in the True Vine

John 15:1-11

From Pastor Phillip

As Jesus and his disciples make their way from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus teaches vital lessons about the meaning of true discipleship. According to Jesus, true disciples will abide in Christ and bear spiritual fruit for the glory of God. To illustrate this truth, Jesus delivers his final “I am” statement in John 15:1 by saying, “I am the true vine”. He then calls his disciples to be fruit-bearing branches that abide in Him.

I. True Disciples Must Have Union with Christ (vv.1-6)

A. False Disciples Are Spiritually Dead

- They do not bear fruit (v.2)
- They do not abide in Christ (v.6)
- They do not inherit eternal life (v.6)

B. True Disciples Are Spiritually Alive

- They are pruned by the Father (v.2)
- They are fruit-bearing branches (vv.2-5)
- They are abiding in and dependent on Christ (vv.4-5)

II. True Disciples Will Bear Spiritual Fruit (vv.7-11)

A. Bible-based Prayers (v.7)

B. God-glorifying Obedience (v.8)

C. Love-fueled Obedience (v.9-10)

D. Joy-filled Living (v.11)

FOR NEXT TIME—Read John 15:12-27, *Be Willing to Love and Prepare to Be Hated*

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. What is the significance behind Jesus calling himself the true vine and his followers branches?
2. If the purpose behind “pruning” is to bear more spiritual fruit, how does that change how you respond to different trials or suffering in your life?
3. Read James 4:2-3 and compare with John 15:7. What’s the difference between godly prayers and selfish prayers?
4. What is the difference between obedience to earn God’s love and obedience that is fueled by love?
5. How is it possible to keep God’s commandments and abide in His love just like Jesus did? (John 15:10)
6. According to Jesus, what is the source of true joy?
7. What did you learn about God from John 15:1-11? How will you specifically apply this text this coming week?