

# John 15:1-17

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July 15, 2025

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Craig Smith • John 15:1-17 • July 20, 2025

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

**God transforms your life and produces spiritual fruit by...**

- **Pruning you back** - *"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." (John 15:2)*

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)*

- **Providing you power** - *"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me...If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:4b, 5b)*

**The branch has only one job - stay connected to the vine!** - *"Remain in me...it must remain in the vine...remain in me...if a man remains in me...remain in me...remain in my love." (John 15:4-9)*

*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:8)*

**A few principles regarding your obedience to the Lord...**

- **It's about love, not law** - *"As the Father has loved me, so have I*

*loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands, and remain in His love." (John 15:9-10)*

- **It's about joy, not burden** – *"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)*

- **It's about friendship, not dictatorship** – *"You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:14-15)*

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:16-17)*