

## John 15:1-17

### I Am the True Vine

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my 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 be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 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 abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.



J e s u s   W h o ?   I   A m . . .

### Part 2 I am the True Vine

**the true vine** - Many times in the O.T. Israel is called God's vine (see Psalm 80) and now Jesus who has already said, "I am the Bread", "the Light", the "Door", the "Good Shepherd", the "Resurrection and Life", the "Way, the Truth, the Life" - now Jesus says that He is the "true Vine". Jesus supersedes Israel as the locus of the people of God.

**my Father is the vinedresser** - Grape vines always need tending. They will become a tangled, under-producing growth unless someone prunes and trains the branches. Jesus states that while He is the true vine, the Father is the heavenly gardener/vintner who trains and prunes the branches so that they will produce more and better fruit.

**branch** - Branches always bear fruit if the vine is a good and healthy vine. Jesus states that His disciples are His branches and His expectation is that they all will produce fruit of the Vine = Himself.

**that does not bear fruit he takes away** - "The transparent purpose of the verse is to insist that there are no true Christians without some measure of fruit. Fruitfulness is an infallible mark of true Christianity; the alternative is dead wood." (Carson, page 515)

**you are clean** - Meaning, you are trained and pruned by Jesus ministry, example and teaching.

(notes provided by Marty Scales)

### Part 2 I am the True Vine

I. The God who \_\_\_\_\_.

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ nature of the \_\_\_\_\_.

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ goal of the \_\_\_\_\_.