

# God With Us



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A 5-WEEK SERMON SERIES  
BY DR. HAMPTON DRUM

# *God With Us, Christ the True Vine*

**John 15:1-10**

Introduction:

*“Our task is to stand tall in God’s love, secure in our place, sparkling in kindness, surrounded by His goodness, freely giving to all who come our way. You, me, and the Christmas tree. Picked, purchased, and pruned.”*

**- Max Lucado**

## **I. The vine pictures Christ’s relation with His branches. (V.1-3)**

A. It is an analogy that gives opportunity for intimacy.

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

### **What did we get in our intimacy with Christ?**

- ◆ **Access:** Our intimacy gives us personal access to God. **Hebrews 4:15**
- ◆ **Adoption:** Our intimacy makes us the very child of God. **Galatians 4:6**
- ◆ **Security:** Our intimacy gives us security as we rest in the hand of God. **John 10:28**
- ◆ **Transparency:** Our intimacy gives us insight into the nature of God. **John 10:30**
- ◆ **Vulnerability:** Our intimacy gives us an openness to communion with God. **Philippians 2:7**
- ◆ **Acceptance:** Our intimacy gives us a realization of His acceptance. **Ephesians 1:6**

**John 14:18** *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

B. It is an analogy that opposes insincerity.

**John 15:2** *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (V.3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

## **II. The vine pictures Christ’s reach through His branches. (V.4-6)**

A. The analogy stresses the necessity of a relationship.

**John 15:4** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (V.5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

## Jesus' Thoughts on Fruit Bearing

- ◆ Jesus says that our fruit identifies us. **Matthew 7:20** *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*
- ◆ Jesus says our fruit tells what goes on in the inner sanctuary of our heart. **Matthew 7:17** *Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*
- ◆ Jesus says to let your fruit match the testimony you profess. **Matthew 12:33** *Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.*

B. The analogy stresses what negates the relationship.

**John 15:6** *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

## Our Fruitlessness Proves the Absence of a Relationship

- ◆ The absence of fruit reveals an absence of intimacy.
- ◆ The absence of fruit reveals a separation still remains.
- ◆ The absence of fruit reveals the relationship necessary to produce the fruit is nonexistent.

### III. The vine pictures Christ's riches in His branches. (V.7)

A. The analogy stresses the wealth of communication in the relationship.

**John 15:7** *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (V.8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

B. The analogy stresses the wisdom of the commandments in the relationship.

**John 15:9** *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. (V.10) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

