





The Life Giving Source of Disciple-making

John 15:1-17

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. John 15:1-17



Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31



- 1. The Source of Fruitful Disciple-making**
- 2. The Offerings of an Abiding, Fruit Bearing Life
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- 3. The Command: Love One Another**
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The Source of Fruitful Disciple-making

- The Relationship between the Father and the Son

- *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. John 15:1-3*
- *⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love... just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. John 15:9-10*



Relationship between the Father and the Son

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world...²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." John 17:24, 26



Jesus tells us explicitly in John 17:24. “Father,” he says, “you loved me before the creation of the world.” And that is the God revealed by Jesus Christ. Before he ever created, before he ever ruled the world, before anything else, this God was a Father loving his Son. (Reeves, pg. 21)

The Father loved Jesus before the creation of the world, and the reason the Father sends him is so that the Father’s love for him might be in others also. That is why the Son goes out from the Father, in both creation and salvation: that the love of the Father for the Son might be shared. (Reeves, pg. 44)

Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity*



The Source of Fruitful Disciple-making

- The Relationship between the Father and the Son
- Abiding in Jesus Christ



Abiding in Jesus Christ

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit (John 15:5)

- μένω – abide, remain, stay, continue, dwell
 - Occurs 112 times in NT; 66 times in John (40 in his Gospel, 23 in 1 John, 3 in 2 John)
- Continuously dwelling in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus that is characterized by love, joy, trust and obedience; Fully attaching ourselves to Jesus alone, drawing our life source from Him which bears much fruit



The Offerings of an Abiding, Fruit Bearing Life

1. You will be Pruned
2. You are Clean
3. You will be in Him and He in You - Abide (remain, dwell)
4. You will Bear much Fruit (Apart from Christ you can do nothing)
5. You can Ask in Christ's Name and it will be done for You
6. You will Glorify the Father
7. Your will Experience Jesus' Joy
8. You will Abide in Jesus' Love and Love one another
9. You are Jesus' Disciple and Friend



A Warning

² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away...

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. (John 15: 2, 6)



The Command: Love One Another

- This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12
- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35
- See also: John 15:17; Romans 12:10; 13:8; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thess. 1:3; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 1:5



Love One Another – A Definition

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends...

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13)



A Living House

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*



Responses to a Fruit Bearing Life

1. Remain Unconnected
2. Get Connected by being Grafting into the Vine
3. Remain Connected to the Vine and Bear Fruit