

I Am the True Vine

John 15:1 "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.

John 15:12 "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.

The Hatred of the World

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

John 15 contains a picture of Jesus' teachings on true oneness, particularly the metaphor of the vine and the branches, emphasizing the themes of connection, love, and discipleship.

1. ****The True Vine (John 15:1-8)**:** Jesus identifies Himself as the true vine and God the Father as the vinedresser. He explains that we are the branches. He emphasizes the necessity of abiding in Him to bear fruit; apart from Him, they can do nothing. The Father prunes branches (not the vine) that bear fruit to make them more fruitful. V, three states we are CLEAN. Then Jesus states that bearing much fruit glorifies God and shows that we are His disciples.

2. ****The Command to Love (John 15:9-17)**:** v 9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you! From the Father through Jesus to us. He commands us to abide in His love and to keep His commandments, which includes the command to love one another as He has loved them. He highlights that greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. He calls His disciples friends, for He has made known to them everything He heard from the Father. **We have moved from Servants to Friends** Because He chose us, he also appointed us so we could ask the Father in His name. The ending command is so that we can love one another.

3. ****The World's Hatred (John 15:18-25)**:** Jesus warns His disciples that the world will hate them because they are not of the world, just as it hated Him. **So get over it!** He explains that this hatred fulfills the scripture that says, "They hated me without a cause." ***Those who walk with guilt and shame will find a righteous***

one to blame. Despite this, He assures them that they will have the Holy Spirit to help and empower them.

4. ****The Promise of the Holy Spirit (John 15:26-27)**: Foretelling,** Jesus promises that **when** the Helper comes, whom He will send from the Father, He will bear witness about Jesus. The disciples are also called to bear witness because they have been with Jesus from the beginning. If you have spent time with Jesus, you are also called to be a witness.

John 16:1-4 is tied to John 15; he said all of 15 to keep us from falling away when they religiously kick us out of the church. And they will kill us, thinking they are doing God a favor. They will do these things because they do not know Jesus or the Father. This whole process of John 15.

In summary, John chapter 15 emphasizes the importance of a deep, abiding relationship with Christ, the call to love one another, the inevitable opposition from the world, and the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower believers.

This chapter is pivotal in understanding the nature of discipleship and the Christian life. It is moving from Servant to Friend in preparation to rule the Kingdom of God as joint heirs with Him.