

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Topic: The True Vine and The Branches

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2024

Text: John 15: 1-17

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The vine is frequently used in the old testament as a symbol of Israel Ps.80:8-16, Isa.5:1-7 Israel is often shown as lacking, hence Jesus had to declare that He is the true vine unlike Israel.

Jesus says “I am” 7 times in the book of John, each time revealing more about His Character.

What are the 7 “I am” statement by Jesus in the gospel of John?

1. I am the bread of life. John 6:35
2. I am the light of the world. John 8:12
3. I am the door. John 10:7
4. I am the good shepherd. John 10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life, John 14:6
7. I am the true vine. John 15:1

The repeated use of “I am” suggests the name God gave to Moses by which to call Him: “I am who I am” Exo. 3:14. Jesus is implying that He is the vine from which all life comes, that He is indeed God as the Son.

Every life in the created order came through Jesus (John 1:3), and the new life of the Kingdom now flows out of Him as well.

v1: “**I am the true vine** and my father is the gardener” – (NIV)

Why is Jesus saying to the people that He is the True vine?

The True Vine: Jesus is the vine, the true source of life for us believers. When Jesus says “I am the true vine” He is really saying, “I am the true Israel.” He is saying that He is the embodiment of all that Israel should be. Israel did not faithfully execute her mission as God’s representative. Her sins and lack of repentance prevented her from being a faithful witness (see Ps. 80 and Isa. 5 again). But Jesus is not like that. He is the true Israel, and He faithfully executes all of God’s purposes.

It is the vine that makes production of the fruit possible. “**Apart from me you can do nothing**”. John 15:5, Phil.4:13 “I can do all things through Christ...”

The branches: The believers are the branches connected to Him, drawing that life from Him as branches draw the necessary nutrients to survive and flourish.

The Vineyard: Matt.20:1-16 A vineyard is a plantation of grape bearing vines. It is where grapes are grown to make wine. Biblically, Vineyard represent the church Matt.21:33, also represent nation of Israel Isa.5:7

The Vinedresser/Husbandman/Gardener: Matt.21:45. The vinedresser represents the civil and religious leader of Israel and Judah whose duty was to guide the nation righteously, but were corrupt in their dealings. God the father in the context of John 15 is the vinedresser.

Pruning & Producing Fruit: Pruning Produces Fruitfulness

What does it mean to Prune? Greek word for Prune is “Kathairo” which means to cleanse.

To prune is to cut off or cut back parts of for a more fruitful growth.

v2: “Any branch in Me that **does not bear fruit** [that stops bearing] **He cuts away** (trims off, takes away); and He **cleanses and repeatedly prunes** every **branch that continues to bear fruit**, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit”. (AMPC)

There are 2 types of branches: 1st branch does not bear/produce fruit – He takes away/cut off. The 2nd branch bears fruit and He prunes it for more.

The branches of the true vine, like the branches of a grape vine, must be pruned so that the harvest will be more abundant.

How? How does He Prunes? Through **hardship, discipline, and suffering**, we are pruned so that our fruit will be ever greater and ever sweeter. James 1:2-3 “*count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations*”.

God disciplines us in order to prune us, Heb.12:4-11

v3 “You are cleansed and pruned already, because of **the word** which I have given you [the teachings I have discussed with you].” *What cleanses the believers?* The word, the teachings etc. “Faith comes by Hearing....”

How do we Abide/dwell in the Father’s love? The Father prunes us if we abide in Christ.

v4: “**Dwell in Me**, and **I will dwell in you**. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.”

v5: “I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit.

However, **apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.**”

v6: If a person does not **dwell in Me**, he is thrown out like a [broken-off] branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and **thrown into the fire**, and they are burned. (HELL)

1 Cor.3:11-14 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. **It will be revealed with fire**, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Answered Prayer

v7: If you **live in Me** [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, **ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you**. Ps.37:4 “*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*”

v8: When you bear (produce) much fruit, **My Father is honored and glorified**, and you show and prove yourselves to be **true followers** of Mine.

Abide in Christ’s Love and receive Joy

v9: I have loved you, [just] as the Father has loved Me; **abide in My love** (continue in His love with Me).

v10: If you **keep My commandments** [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will **abide in My love** and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commandments and live on in His love.

v11: I have told you these things, that **My joy and delight may be in you**, and that **your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing**. (Thomas Slager Quote – “If your life is lacking joy, it is because your life is lacking Jesus)

Loving God’s People

v12: This is My commandment: that you **love one another** [just] as I have loved you.

v13: No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than **to lay down** (give up) **his own life for his friends**.

v14: **You are My friends** if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do.

v15 I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you **My friends**, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.]

v16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I Am], He may give it to you.

17 This is what I command you: that you love one another.