

## ***“I Am the True Vine”***

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John 15:1-8, 16

Jesus and the disciples have left the upper room (John 14:31). He just instituted the Lord’s Supper where He compared His blood to (Luke 22:18). Now He tells His disciples, ***I a***

This is an **allegory** about fruitfulness, **NOT** salvation. is mentioned 8 times in our text. The theme is not our position in heaven, but our productivity on earth. It is all about bearing fruit and the conditions for bearing fruit.

➔ Four progressive stages in fruit bearing: (1) **no fruit** (v. 2); (2) **fruit** (v. 2); (3) **more fruit** (v. 2); (4) **much fruit** (v. 8).

➔ It is a mistake to limit spiritual fruit to only souls won to Christ (Rom. 1:13). There are other kinds of spiritual fruit bore by a believer:

- Mt. 3:8 —fruits meet for repentance (cf. Luke 3:8).
- Rom. 15:27-28— Fruit of giving to missions.
- Gal. 5:22-23—Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- Php 1:11— the fruits of righteousness (cf. 2 Cor. 9:10; Heb. 12:11; James 3:18)
- Heb 13:15—Praise and thanksgiving—the fruit of our lips.

### **I. The PORTRAYAL of the vine** (vs. 1-3).

A. The **GENUINENESS** Of The True Vine. The emphasis is on the adjective .” Jesus is absolutely true! There is nothing false about Him.

- John 1:9 — ***L***
- John 6:32— ... ***a***
- John 14:6— ***THE TRUTH,***
- 1 John 5:20 — ***G*** ,
- Rev. 19:11— ***a T*** ,

➔ Jesus is the **TRUE VINE** in contrast to Israel, the empty vine (Hos. 10:1). God transplanted the vine of Israel from Egypt to

Palestine (Ps. 80:8-9). However, Israel only produced wild/sour grapes that was good for nothing (Jer. 2:21; Isa. 5:1-7).

B. The **GARDENER** Of The True Vine. The word refers to the vine dresser, the gardener who CARES for the vineyard. The Heavenly Father is the Gardener. He planted the Vine on the earth and sustained Him (John 6:57).

Three main duties of the Gardener.

- 1. He is a **cultivator** of the vine                                  nourishment.
- 2. He is a **custodian** of the vine                                  it’s branches from disease.
- 3. He is a **cleaner** of the vine                                  it’s branches.

**II. The PURPOSE of the branches.**

A. A PRODUCTIVE

happened to this branch that was no longer bringing forth fruit.

- c) **What does God do with a barren branch?** Jesus said He takes it away. Notice, He does NOT say He takes it away from the vine. If you are nothing can separate you from Him (Rom. 8:31-39). So, where is the barren branch taken? From where it has fallen!

➔ The words \_\_\_\_\_ is translated from the Greek verb \_\_\_\_\_ that means either

or \_\_\_\_\_ for example:

- Mt. 14:20 ...
- Luke 17:13 ...
- John 5:8—
- John 11:41— ...”

Grape vines must be \_\_\_\_\_ from the ground to produce fruit. They are often supported on a trellis. However, a branch may sag or fall to the ground. When the husbandman sees a branch laying on the ground, he “takes it away” from the dirt and **lifts it up** to a trellis so it is exposed to the sunlight and no longer vulnerable to disease or decay (cf. James 4:10; Ps. 113:7).



2. The **fruit bearing branch** (v. 2b—“...)

...”) In the past, I’ve mistakenly referred to this “purging” as pruning.

- a) “\_\_\_\_\_” does not mean \_\_\_\_\_ in this text. Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines purge: “**To cleanse** or purify; 2. To clear from guilt or moral defilement; to purge away

n.” This is how the Bible uses the word “purge.” [Ps. 51:7  
*P*”; Heb.  
 22—“  
 .” 2  
 Pet 1:9—  
 .”]

b) A branch must be to bear more fruit. Foreign debris hinders fruit production. There were no insecticides in Bible times. Water was used to wash off harmful insects, mildew, and other parasites that would hinder fruit production. God’s Word is the that cleans and purges (cf. v. 3; Eph. 5:26; Ps. 119:9). Cleansing is vital to fruit bearing.

B. The **PRAISEFUL** purpose (v. 8). We are saved to bear fruit for God’s glory. When fruit is produced, neither the Vine... nor the branches... nor the soil... not even the fruit gets the credit. All the praise goes to the Gardener (1 Cor. 10:31).

### III. The **PROVISIONS** for fruit bearing.

A. The branch must be **ATTACHED** to the Vine (v. 2). The “sap” flows from the vine into the branches to produce fruit.

1. The branch cannot fruit on it’s own (v. 4)—it can only fruit (v. 5). Apart from Christ all I can produce are the works of the flesh.
2. It is Christ living His life through me—  
 ”

”

- Paul—

*I*

(1 Cor. 15:10).

- Jesus—

...” (John 5:19).

B. The branch must **ABIDE** in the Vine.

6 times in vs. 4-7.

1.            refers to fellowship, **not** salvation. Only someone who is saved can fellowship with Christ.
  - is connected with the word “abode.” It means to “dwell in;” to “be at home in.” If we are to bear fruit, we must remain in constant fellowship with Christ.
  - Fruit is produced by abiding, not striving (v. 5). As I            in the vine, Jesus produces the fruit! It is His fruit, not mine!
2. **How does one** *a*            By walking in the Spirit... By maintaining good works... By staying in communion with Christ through prayer and meditating in His Word (v. 7; Luke 9:44).
3. **Not every branch abides in the Vine** (v. 6). This does not picture someone losing salvation, but rather losing one’s productivity and future reward.
  - Branch is cast aside. You cannot lose salvation, but you can become “            (1 Cor. 9:27). The branch still has the same nature as the Vine, but the flow of “sap” has been obstructed leaving the branch unproductive.
  - Becomes            — Dried up. Useless (cf. Mt. 5:13).
  - Loss of reward (1 Cor. 3:13-15). While fruit bearing has nothing to do with salvation, it has everything to do with your reward after you are saved. If we fail to bring forth good fruit, our lives are wasted and our works will be burned up in fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**SUMMATION:** Ask yourself, “Am I really in Christ, the Vine? Am I one of His spiritual branches?”

Religion/church is not the true vine. You may be a Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, or even a Baptist, and yet not be in Christ, the true vine.

If you are in the vine, are you "abiding in the Vine"? Are you drawing your strength from Him and bearing fruit?"