

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

15 “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 bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are 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 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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 so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

Disciples’ Relation to Each Other¹² “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one 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 slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things 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 would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, that you love one another. **John 15:1-17 NASB**

- The Pruning Process: **v1-3**
 - a) Jesus: The Vine
 - b) God: The Vine Dresser
 - c) Believers: The Branches
 - d) Pruning: means to make clean, purify moral/spiritual cleansing, training.
 - e) He prunes/cleanses fruit bearing (**v2**) branches only.
 - f) He sends His cleansing Word for the purpose of His people bearing more fruit.
 - g) A cleansing or pruning Word is about the Harvest...

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

- h) His disciples had already been pruned by His life-giving authoritative Words. (**v3**)

Note: We have had a faulty concept about pruning. The purpose of pruning is so that we can bear more fruit. So, the Lord speaks a cleansing, 'cutting-back' word to us in the midst of fruitfulness so that the fruit is able to remain and to increase. This principle is true at every level. Jesus is pursuing us to develop harvest-eyes in us. Fruitfulness is not to result in us being fat and happy, but rather it is to strengthen us to receive a cleansing word so that we can be healthy, abiding in Him obediently, which clears the way for more fruit.

In the natural realm, pruning is a necessary process. The branches need to be pruned or 'cleansed' or they will get straggly and 'grow in' on themselves. Pruning helps a branch grow in the right direction and for the designed purpose. You prune a branch to stop it from wasting its energy and being 'unproductive'. Pruning keeps a branch from growing inward and getting tangled up. Pruning causes the branch to grow outwards and towards the light.

- Our Response: Abide, obey, and pray. (**v4-8**)
 - a) Vine ripened fruit only comes from abiding in Him.
 - Activity and strategy alone only produce what we can self-generate.
 - b) Abiding: a continual living connection; a living reciprocal relationship with Jesus.
 - c) Abiding: living in vital union with Jesus in the same unbroken way that He lives in union with us. (see **I Corinthians 6:17**)
 - d) Abiding in Him and He in you produce much fruit, lots of fruit and lots of varieties of fruit.

Note: apart from abiding, we can do a lot, but it amounts to nothing. (Wood-Hay-Stubble) We can 'do' church apart from abiding, but we can't 'do' the Kingdom. It takes union to produce birth. Apart from this union we can do nothing that He "Fathers".

- e) Failure to abide means that we produce no God-initiated fruit. Failure to abide results in the 'scrap heap.' (**v6**)
- f) Abiding and obeying results in answered prayers for us.
- g) Abiding in Him results in God being glorified.
 - God is glorified when we abide in Him and bear much fruit.

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

- God is glorified when our walk with Him is marked by answered prayer.
- God is glorified when we live lives that ‘validate’ our discipleship.
- Abiding in Him is a love issue. (v9-11)
 - a) Jesus loves us with the love of God, and we are to set our roots deeply in His love.
 - b) Jesus equates love and obedience, seeing and hearing God’s will and living accordingly. (John 14:31, 8:29, 15:11)
 - c) This way of life results in the joy.
- Abiding in Him and our relationship with other disciples. (v12-17)
 - a) Sacrificial love: loving like Jesus loves, proves our friendship with Him and with others.
 - b) He identifies His disciples as His friends. (v15)
 - This friendship flows from our abiding in Him and is based on ‘intimate entrustments’. (see Psalm 25:14)

The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant *and* reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning. **Psalm 25:14 AMPC**

- c) Jesus makes choice of you, so you could choose Him.
- d) He chose us and appointed us to go and bear fruit that lasts and increases, so that our prayer could be limit-less, bound-less, and answered.
- e) Don’t forget...I command you to love one another.
 - We are empowered to love each other through our loving and abiding relationship with Jesus. Intimate obedience to Him produces love for others.
- This is the heart of the abiding fruit bearing, reciprocal relationship with God. Jesus commands us to abide in Him because loving one another flows from this living relationship, bringing glory to the Father and the Son.

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption. **I Corinthians 1:30 NASB**

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin]. **I Corinthians 1:30 AMPC**

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. ²⁵ But *they have done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.’ ²⁶ “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷ and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. **John 15:18-27 NASB**

V19..You are out of this world!!

¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **Colossians 1:13-14 NASB**

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. **Philippians 3:20-21 NASB**

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**
NASB

John 15:26-27 – The Helper, the Spirit of Truth.

He will come and re-present Jesus and then so will we. We will testify by the words we speak and by what we do...the 'smoking gun!'