

Connected to the Vine

John 15:1-8

Connections are so important. We need to be connected to one another. From birth, through childhood to adulthood, that ability to be able connect, to build relationships with others is key to healthy emotional growth. But there is another connection that is so important and Jesus draws our attention to it in John 15. It's about being spiritually connected to God through Jesus which then enables us to be more fully connected to each other.

Lesson One: The vineyard belongs to God.

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser" (John 15:1).

Jesus reminds us, "My Father is the vinedresser. He is the owner of the vineyard." We cannot find our purpose without realizing our place.

Lesson Two: We must be connected to the Source.

"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. 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" (John 15:4-5).

Connected to the Source could be likened to a baby being connected to the umbilical cord or a deep sea diver to his oxygen. Just like a vine branch is intimately connected to the vine, Jesus says that His followers need to be intimately connected to Him.

Lesson Three: The Vine naturally connects us to each other.

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:12-13).

Oh how we need unity in the Lord's church today! In a time when there are so many divisions within and without we need to be unified! Christians can always do more together than they ever can apart. When we work together, we can accomplish much more than we can separately.

Lesson four: God wants us to be fruitful.

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:7-8).

While I remember that God is in control and it is His vineyard – I also need to remember that my job is to "bear fruit." Give up control and trust Him.

"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 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. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:9-11).

