

SERMON-BASED STUDY: I AM THE TRUE VINE

John 15:1-11, ESV – *“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.*

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 What does the imagery of the vine, vinedresser and branches reveal about our relationship with Jesus and the Father?

2 Jesus says, *apart from me you can do nothing*. What does this mean in the context of your daily work, relationships and ministry?

3 Verse 11 mentions *your joy may be full*. How does connecting to the vine produce true joy, as opposed to worldly happiness?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **1 John 2:6, 23-24; 3:4-6; 4:13-17, ESV** – ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

4 What does it actually mean to *abide* or *remain* in Christ?

5 Why is it impossible to have a relationship with God while rejecting Jesus?

6 How does abiding in Jesus lead to a deeper level of assurance? What role does the Holy Spirit play in this assurance?

B **James 1:2-4, ESV** – ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Hebrews 12:7-11, ESV – ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

7 How can trials, which are usually painful, be viewed as opportunities for growth rather than punishment?

8 How is God's discipline an act of love? How is it like a "pruning" process?

9 What is the *peaceful fruit of righteousness*? What does it look like in daily life?

TAKING IT HOME

This week, we learned that Jesus is the true vine who keeps us connected with the Father. What is one practical step you can take this week to abide more deeply in Christ? In what ways may God be pruning you right now? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to show you what next steps you need to take in your faith journey.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

John 8:31

Galatians 5:22-23

James 4:7-10