



Uniontown Bible Church

Sermon Guide
May 3: John 15

What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus is the True Vine: He claimed the identity that Israel failed to live up to and is the channel through which God's love, blessing, and character flow to the world. Apart from Him, we can do nothing of eternal significance
2. We Are Branches, Not Admirers: We're not called to admire Jesus from a distance but to be connected to Him. Fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) is the natural byproduct of connection. Branches don't strategize or strain to produce fruit—they simply stay attached
3. Abiding Means Being in Two Places at Once: Abiding is maintaining ongoing awareness of Jesus' presence throughout your daily life. It's not just a morning quiet time—it's carrying that posture into every moment intentionally but not faking it.
4. Pruning is Intimacy, Not Abandonment: God prunes branches that ARE producing fruit so they'll produce MORE. The gardener is closest to the plant during pruning, so remember that difficult seasons aren't evidence of God's absence but of His nearness.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding Israel as "the vine" in the Old Testament change your understanding of Jesus' claim in John 15?
2. Read Galatians 5:22-23 together. Which aspect of the fruit of the Spirit do you most long to see grow in your life? Why that one?
3. Which of these practical definitions of the Fruit of the Spirit resonates most with a current struggle in your life? Love is choosing good when it feels better not to, peace is staying steady when everything is shaking, or self-control is stopping when everything in you wants to keep going
4. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current "connectedness" to Jesus? What influences that rating?

5. We all check our phones 60-100 times per day. What would change if you "returned to Jesus" with that same frequency? What might that look like practically?
6. What's the difference between "spiritual disciplines" and "abiding"? How do they work together?
7. Share about a time when you experienced God's "pruning" in your life. Looking back, can you see how He was close to you during that season?
8. Abiding means "being in two places at once"—fully present in your circumstances while aware of Jesus' presence. What makes this difficult? When have you experienced this successfully?
9. What are the biggest obstacles that keep you from remaining/abiding in Christ throughout your day? Busyness? Noise and distraction? Shame or guilt? Feeling unworthy? Not knowing how?
10. How does our culture's emphasis on productivity and performance make it harder to trust that fruit comes from connection rather than effort?

Practical Applications:

1. Personal Reflection: What specific practice will you commit to this week? How will you remember to do it? Who will you ask to check in with you about it?
2. The Five-Minute Practice: Set aside 5 minutes each day for silence then ask three questions: Who are You? Who am I? How are we? Share your experience with the group next week
3. The Hourly Return: Set a gentle reminder on your phone every 1-2 hours. When it goes off, take 30 seconds to acknowledge Jesus' presence. Pray a simple prayer something like "Jesus, I'm here. You're here. We're together."
4. The Two-Places Practice: Choose one routine activity (commute, exercise, household chore) to practice being "in two places at once." Do the activity while conversing with Jesus and then journal about what you notice.
5. Spiritual Discipline Reset: Choose one spiritual discipline to practice this week (Scripture reading, prayer, Sabbath, etc.) Don't do it to check a box. Do it as a way to stay rooted in the vine. Reflect: How did this practice help you remain connected?
6. Communion is a physical reminder that we are attached to Jesus. How does taking communion help you remember your connection to the vine?