

May 18th, 2025

Grapes, Love & Hostility
John 15

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:1-5 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

- The vine and branches. John 15:1-11
- The preeminence of love. John 15:12-17
- Conflict with the world. John 15:18-25
- The promise of the Holy Spirit. John 15:26-16:4

1. Keep the main thing _____.

⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

*The main thing is to maintain a _____
and _____ connection to Jesus.*

2. Love people like it's your _____ on earth

¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

3. Expect _____.

¹⁸"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

The World: The fallen system of human society that is opposed to God. A set of ideologies, values, and behaviors antithetical to the teaching of Jesus.

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most in the message to you regarding something that you learned, challenged you, or that you disagreed with? And, in what ways can you see these truths being lived out in your relationships and life this week?

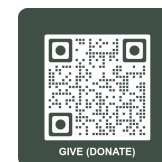
Read all of John 15 and note things that stand out to you. Share your observations with the group.

What speaks to you the most in the metaphor of the vine and branches? How would you describe what it means to maintain a consistent and meaningful connection to Jesus? What are some practices that have worked for you to do that? What's the difference to you between "remaining" in Christ and merely doing the "list?"

Describe a time when "loving someone like Jesus does" was especially difficult for you. What made it hard? How did it turn out? What did God do in you through that experience?

Have you ever faced hostility for following Jesus? What was that like? How did you sustain yourself through it?

Of the three take aways, which is the most difficult and why?



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⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

*The main thing is to maintain a consistent
and meaningful connection to Jesus.*

2. Love people like it's your last day on earth.

¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

3. Expect pushback.

¹⁸"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

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