

“The True Vine”

John 15:1-11

Central Idea: To live a fruitful life the believer must remain in fellowship with Christ.

Background:

- Part of the upper room discourse
- Three important observations:
 - Jesus is speaking to believers
 - The main point of the teaching is abiding
 - Jesus teaches here through illustration

I. The Identities of Those Involved (1-3)

- Jesus and the Father (1)
 - Jesus is the genuine, life-giving vine
 - The Father is the one tending to the vine and branches
- The Branches (2)
 - Two kinds, both are in Christ
 - All the Vinedresser's actions are to help them bear fruit
 - Those that don't bear fruit
 - αἵρω = lift up or take away
 - Lifting up is helpful to the branch
 - Those that bear fruit
 - Are pruned to yield more and better quality fruit
- The Disciples (3)
 - Already clean = Already have eternal life (John 13:10)
 - The absence of fruit does not indicate the absence of salvation

II. Instructions on Abiding (4-10)

- Bearing Fruit by Abiding (4-5)
 - Abide = to have fellowship
 - The extent of a believer's fruitfulness directly correlates to their intimacy with Christ
 - One must be in fellowship with God to bear fruit
- Not Abiding (6)
 - Branches that didn't produce are not removed, but those that don't have a healthy connection to the vine are
 - This wood was only useful to burn (Ezek. 15:1-5)
 - Believers who don't abide are useless like this
 - Verse 6 is about usefulness, not judgement
- The Results of Abiding (7-8)
 - Answered Prayer
 - God is Glorified
- The Key to Abiding (9-10)
 - Obedience
 - Keeping Jesus' commandments

III. The Purpose of this Instruction (11)

- To make the disciples' joy full

Application:

- Pursue Fellowship, Not Fruit
 - Christ is the one who produces the fruit
 - Accomplished by following Christ's example
 - Results in God's glory and our joy