

PRODUCING FRUIT THAT REMAINS

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Key verses: John 15:1-16

John 15:1-16 NKJV

1"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 bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3**You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6**If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **7**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8**By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9"As the Father loved Me, I also have 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 remain in you, and that your joy may be full. **12**This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13**Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **14**You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15**No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16**You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Picture of a vine



Verse 1a – “I am the true vine”

- A vine grows in all directions
- The vine shoots out the branches
- The vine is the source of nutrition for the branches
- A vine does not bear fruit – the branches do
- Branches support each other – they have tendrils



Verse 1b – “and My Father is the vinedresser”

- This deals with a vinedresser
- What is a vinedresser?
 - A vinedresser is an agricultural specialist that oversees propagation, planting, pruning and tendering of grape vines in the vineyard – their goal is to optimize the quality and abundance of grapes.
 - The understanding of the tasks that the vinedresser needs to do is found in verse 2



Non fruit-bearing branch that was cut



More flowers were produced where it was pruned

Pruning

- Why pruning – it removes what is harmful or of no value
- How - There are two types of pruning:
 - Thinning – more for woody plants to maintain their natural form
 - Heading – these cuts are at 45 degree angles stimulate regrowth

Benefits of Pruning

These cuttings promote production of Fruit

Pruning leans to a common repetition in this section of scripture....

Abide in Me

Guard your heart from all evil and do good... so that fruit may be produced that pruning many continue and you may live in Gods planned purpose

Abide in Me

- From V 4 – 10 – Abide is repeated 10 times NKJ – must be important
- Meaning – To remain – Remain appears twice – v 11 and v16
 - Abide has a Latin origin – from the word *biden* which means to trust – confide – remain – endures and to be present.
 - **Abide in means to accept without objection....**
 - To bear – endure - tolerate – put up with – to remain stable
 - To accept without resistance or protest

“Abide in Me” is an instruction – a **verb** so **it’s a doing word** – not about feelings or beliefs ... it entails a deeper walk with Jesus.

Illustration: Dissolved vs Infused:



Sugar dissolved in water can be distilled and separated but tea infused cannot be separated. It is brewed in. This is how it is with us and Jesus. We become one with Him and must live in this abiding.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, **than to lay down one’s life** for his friends

John 15:14-15 No longer servants but friends ...What an elevation

John 15:16 **Jesus chose you... you did not choose him...** He appointed you that you should **go and bear fruit...** And that your fruit should remain and that whatever you ask the Father in his name he will give you

Summary

- The vine goes everywhere and attaches itself to everything around it. Like the gospel and the church... starting in Jerusalem, Judea Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth. We are to reach out all around us with the love of God and the gospel.
- We must go deep with our relationships with one another – a hug not a handshake – intimacy. We must support and cover one another.
- We must remain abiding in Jesus and get our nourishment from Him; be surrendered and yielded to His will.
- We must bear fruit that remains: make disciples who in turn make disciples.
- We must allow the Father to prune us so we can bear more fruit.