

# The Gospel According to John

## “The Fruit-Bearing Life of Christ”

John 15:1-17



## John 15:1-5

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

## John 15:6-8

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

## **John 15:9-11**

“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 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. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

## **John 15:12-15**

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

## **John 15:16-17**

“You did not choose Me but I chose you,  
and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,  
and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever  
you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.  
This I command you, that you love one another.”

# Main Idea

True believers have been united  
to the life-giving vine of Christ;  
and by abiding in Him,  
they bear the fruits of His life.

# The Fruit-Bearing Life of Christ

True believers have been united  
to the life-giving vine of Christ.



# **Union with Christ**

Jesus is the true vine that gives true life to its branches.

**John 15:1**

“I am the true vine,  
and My Father is the vinedresser.”

Jesus is not simply using a convenient  
word picture; He is helping them to see  
that *He* is the true Israel.

## **Psalm 80:8-11**

You removed a vine from Egypt;  
You drove out the nations and planted it.  
You cleared the ground before it,  
And it took deep root and filled the land.  
The mountains were covered with its shadow,  
And the cedars of God with its boughs.  
It was sending out its branches to the sea  
And its shoots to the River.

**Jeremiah 2:21**

Yet I planted you a choice vine,  
A completely faithful seed.

How then have you turned yourself before Me  
Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?

**John 15:1**

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**Psalm 80:8 and 11**

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**John 15:5**

“I am the vine, **you are the branches...**

Jesus is the vine that God planted,  
and we are His branches spreading  
throughout the whole world.

# The true Vine gives true life to its branches.

**John 15:5**

“I am the vine, you are the branches.  
He who abides in Me and I in him,  
he bears much fruit,  
for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

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he bears much fruit,

for **apart from Me you can do nothing.”**

This is because branches have  
no life in themselves; it is the vine  
that gives them life.

Branches derive life from the vine,  
and the life that Jesus, the true Vine,  
gives is true and lasting life.

**John 4:14**

“...the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

**John 10:28**

“I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

# Union with Christ

Jesus is the true vine that gives true life to its branches.

**True branches will abide in Christ the vine.**

**John 15:4**

“Abide in Me, and I in you.”

John 15:4

**“Abide in Me,** and I in you.”

John 15:4

“Abide in Me, **and I in you.**”

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“Abide in Me, **and I in you.**”

**Consider:** If a branch is truly in the vine,  
it will have the life of the vine in it.

Christ will never fail to abide in His branches;  
He is and *always* will be in them.

And the life He gives is a life that abides.

This is why we can be certain that those who are truly united to Christ will remain in Him, because it does not depend on them but on Christ in them. Don't look to yourself; look to Christ!

# The Fruit-Bearing Life of Christ

True believers have been united to the life-giving vine of Christ.

Those who are united to Christ,  
the life-giving vine, bear fruit.



**Those united to Christ bear fruit.**

Because the life of Christ  
is *fruit-bearing* life.

## **John 15:5**

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he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,  
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**he who abides in Me and I in him,  
he bears much fruit,**

for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

This is because the life of Christ  
is a fruit-bearing life!

The one who is truly united to Christ *will* bear fruit because the very nature of the life flowing to Him from Christ is fruit-bearing.

To say some branches can be united to Christ but not bear fruit is either to say that Christ fails to give life to some that are in Him or that the life He gives them is not fruit-bearing life.

**Those united to Christ bear fruit.**

Because the life of Christ is fruit bearing life.

Because the Father is a faithful  
vinedresser and cleans the branches  
for fruitfulness.

## **John 15:1-2**

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

## **Jeremiah 2:21-22**

Yet I planted you a choice vine, a completely faithful seed.

How then have you turned yourself before Me

Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?

Although you wash yourself with lye and use much soap,

The stain of your iniquity is before Me,”

declares the Lord God.”

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Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?

Although you wash yourself with lye and use much soap,

**The stain of your iniquity is before Me,**

declares the Lord GOD.”

But it is the Father that plants  
the true Vine, and it is He who  
cleans the branches and removes  
the stain of their iniquity!

## John 15:1-3

I am the true vine, and **My Father is the vinedresser.**  
...every branch that bears fruit,  
He cleans it so that it may bear more fruit.

## John 15:1-3

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.  
...every branch that bears fruit,

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## **John 15:1-3**

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

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He cleans it so that it may bear more fruit.

**You are already clean** because of the word  
which I have spoken to you.

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I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.  
...every branch that bears fruit,  
He cleans it so that it may bear more fruit.

**You are already clean** because of the word  
which I have spoken to you.

### **John 13:10**

“He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet,  
but is completely clean; **and you are clean.**”

The cleaning work of the Father is similar to His discipline and is the ongoing work of fructification for those who belong to Christ.

**John 15:2**

...every branch that bears fruit,

**He cleans it** so that it may bear more fruit.

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...every branch that bears fruit,

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## John 15:2

...every branch that bears fruit,

He cleans it **so that it may bear more fruit.**

But what is this fruit?

# Those united to Christ bear fruit.

Because the life of Christ is fruit bearing life.

Because the Father cleans the branches for fruitfulness.

## The fruit of Christ's life is love.

**John 15:5**

“I am the vine, you are the branches;  
he who abides in Me and I in him,  
he bears much fruit.”

The fruit produced will be in keeping with  
the nature of the vine producing it.

## **John 15:9-10**

“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 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.”

Because God is love, the Son’s nature is love, and so He keeps His Father’s commandments, and abides in His Father’s love.

Because the life the Son gives to those who are united to Him is His own life, it is a life of love that bears the fruit of love. What will the fruit of this love look like?

# **It will look like joyful obedience.**

**John 15:9-10**

“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. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

**Love obeys and finds joy in the obedience!**

**It will look like sacrificial love for others.**

**John 15:12-13**

“This is My commandment, that you love one another,  
just as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this,  
that one lay down his life for his friends.”

**John 15:17**

“This I command you, that you love one another.”

# **It will look like love for the lost.**

## **John 15:16-17**

“You did not choose Me but I chose you,  
and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,  
and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever  
you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.  
This I command you, that you love one another.”

**It will look like love for the lost.**

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and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever  
you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.  
This I command you, that you love one another.”

**Matthew 28:19**

**“Go, therefore...!”**

# The Fruit-Bearing Life of Christ

True believers have been united to the life-giving vine of Christ.

Those who are united to Christ, the life-giving vine, bear fruit.

**Those who do not bear fruit are not united to the life-giving vine of Christ.**



**No fruit, no union with Christ**

The life given by Christ is  
a fruit-bearing life.

## **John 15:5**

**“I am the vine, you are the branches;  
he who abides in Me and I in him,  
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**he who abides in Me and I in him,  
he bears much fruit.”**

If there is union, there will be life;  
and if there is life, it will bear fruit.

**John 15:2**

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit,  
He takes away.”

This is akin to the king's removal of the dinner  
guest who was not wearing wedding clothes.  
The man had come, but he didn't belong.

# **No fruit, no union with Christ**

The life of Christ is fruit bearing life.

**Fruitless branches are lifeless  
and will be burned.**

## John 15:5-6

“...he who abides in me...bears much fruit.

If anyone does not abide in Me, [*he does not bear fruit*]...

Branches that do not receive  
life from the vine will not bear fruit  
because they have no life of their  
own; they are lifeless.

## **John 15:6**

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.”

Lifeless branches are dry and brittle;  
they are worthless, good only for the fire.

# A Caution

**John 15:1-2**

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away.”

We should not press this word picture so far as to conclude that these fruitless branches are truly connected to the vine.

If they were truly connected, they would be receiving the fruit-bearing life of Christ.

Yet these *are* meaningful and gracious warnings that serve at least two purposes:

They serve to renew, instruct, guard, and keep those who belong to Christ.

They serve to bring judgment upon false professors who hear but do not heed.

# Concluding Helps

Fruit does not come by focusing on fruit making but on the fruit Maker.

Abiding in Christ is receiving His life from Him *through the means* He has given to you.

Prayer is one of those means:

The Father will hear you when you ask for a fruitful life and will be glorified by doing it.