

# “I AM the True Vine”

Scripture: John 15:1-8

God call us to abide (remain) in relationship with Him – a relationship of faith

## Jesus’ makes a dramatic claim

*“I am the true vine” – John 15:1a*

- Old Testament image for Israel: vineyard or vine
- Jesus: I fulfill everything the vine was always meant to be.

## Our Father is the Gardener of the Kingdom

*“...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.” – John 15:1b-2*

- He prunes to increase fruitfulness

## Fruitfulness is the outcome of abiding

*“...apart from me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5*

*...whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” – 1 John 2:6 ESV*

- Fruitfulness is not something we achieve, it is something we receive.

## Abide in me – even when staying is difficult

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” – John 15:7*

- When His words shape us, our desires change, our prayers align with God’s will

## The Father is glorified when we bear fruit

*“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” – John 15:8*

- When we live fruitful lives we are showing the world what it looks like to draw from the only true vine.

## How much is abiding passive and how much is action?

## Questions for individual or small group study

### OBSERVATION: (TEXT)

- How many times does the word “Abide/remain” appear? What does its repetition tell you about what Jesus wants his disciples to understand?
- Trace the vine image through the Old Testament passages (Psalm 80, Isaiah 5, Isaiah 27)—what consistent pattern do you notice?
- Who is the gardener – what is his role in the vineyard?
- In Verse 2 – The Father does two different things to two different kinds of branches? What are they and why the difference?
- In verse 3, Jesus makes an unexpected shift: “Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.” Why do you think he inserts this here, in the middle of the vine imagery?
- Verse 6 speaks of a branch that is thrown away and withers. Verse 8 speaks of bearing much fruit. How does Jesus describe what each of these leads to?

### INTERPRETATION: (THEOLOGY)

- What is the word “true” doing in “I am the true vine”? What is Jesus claiming about himself in relation to Israel’s history?
- Israel was called to be the channel of God’s blessing to the nations and failed repeatedly. Jesus succeeds as the true vine. What does that tell us about how God accomplishes his purposes when human instruments fail?
- What kind of gardener is God?
- Verse 7 says “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” What kind of prayer is Jesus describing here?
- How does being in the vine shape what we desire and therefore what we ask for?

### APPLICATION: (TODAY)

- What does it practically look like to abide in Jesus in your daily life?
- Can you identify a season of pruning in your life? A loss, a closed door, etc. that you can now look back on and see the fruit that grew from it?
- Do you know anyone who walked away from God—someone who failed to abide/remain?
- What role does church leadership and the community play in the fruitfulness of the “vineyard”?
- What is one concrete way you want to abide/remain more intentionally in Christ this week – through scripture, prayer, community or something else?

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