

The Vine and the Branches John 15:1-13

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He 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. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴**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. **Q: How do we remain in the vine?**

⁵"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. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and **my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. **Q: What kind of "fruit" is God pleased with?**

Q: How do we A.B.I.D.E. in Christ the way He wants us to?

Adoration: love God/others; pray/fast; time to listen to and talk w/ God
Bible -- schedule a regular time/ place for studying God's word; meditate
Interpersonal—join church, small group, Sunday school, min opportunity!
Disciples--"Go into all the world and make disciples..." Be one/make one!
Evangelism --"Go into all the world- preach the Gospel to every creature!"
Service—Use your spirit gifts, natural abilities, and acquired skills for Him
Sanctification—"If you love me, you will keep my commands" (Jn 14:15)

⁹"**As the Father has loved me**, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you **keep my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you**. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **Q: How has the Father loved Jesus? How has Jesus loved us? Why is this important?**

Five primary ways the Father showed his love to his Son Jesus by:

1. Delegation: "The Father loves the Son **and has placed everything in his hands**. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." John 3:35, 36

Who has God brought into your life that you can equip for ministry?

2. Revelation: "For the Father loves the Son and **shows him all he does**. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed." John 5:20

Leaders are learners. Are you a disciplined learner of God's message?

3. Affirmation: "And a voice from heaven said, "This is **my Son**, whom I love; with him I am **well pleased**." Matt 3:17; 17:5

Are you positive and encouraging, loving and respecting as you communicate?

4. Attention: "Then the devil left him, and **angels came and attended him**." Matt 4:11 "An **angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him**." Lk 22:43

Do you reach out in word and deed with a compassionate and empathetic heart? What needs are there around you that you can meet? Prov 3:27

5. Unification: "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you^{known} to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the **love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them**." John 17: 25, 26

Do you speak the truth in love, while preserving the unity of the relationship?

Main Idea: "To abide in Christ's love is to not only live in the total awareness and appreciation of what God has done, is doing, and will do, but **also to order your agenda and life according to His heart and His will**. We need to let Christ's love guide, control, and compel us to act and plan according to His desire" "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died." 2 Cor 5:14

"Unless you are **conscience of the things that would compromise your affections toward your Lord**, you will not be prepared to subdue them and reject them when they tempt you away from God."

“When our Lord says: Abide in me he is talking about the will, about the choices, the decisions we make. We must decide to do things which expose ourselves to him and keep ourselves in contact with him. This is what it means to abide in him.” (Boice)

Questions for consideration:

- 1) What is the way we are to remain in the “vine”?
- 2) What kind of fruit is God pleased as we abide?
- 3) How has God use you? What fruit have you experienced?
- 4) What areas in the seven above come easiest to you? Why?
- 5) What areas in the seven above are the most difficult? Why?
- 6) What steps are you going to take to get to the next level?
- 7) In what way has the Father loved Jesus? (Read John 17)
- 8) Why is this important that we know how the Father loved Jesus?
- 9) Give some personal examples of ways we can love like the Father.
- 10) *“Unless you are conscience of the things that would compromise your affections toward your Lord, you will not be prepared to subdue them and reject them when they tempt you away from God.”* What are the things that “compromise your affections toward the Lord?”
- 11) What do you feel promotes unity in the body of Christ? How can we be true to our convictions, but at the same time keep the unity of the faith?
- 12) How about you? Do have this kind of Trinitarian love for others? If you do, you are abiding in Christ. Are you spending enough time with the people you love? Is it a holy and loving time, communicating healthy values to each other?
- 13) Is it hard to be positive and encouraging? Why or why not?

Obeying Jesus Commands #8: Remember and Repent

9/5/2021

*“Therefore, **remember** from where you have fallen, and **repent**, and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”* Rev 2:5 This repent is not a repentance unto salvation; it is turning back from a dangerous course of life and turning to God. As always, Christ's main concern was the love relationship between Him and His people. We need to remember our roots and foundations so that we don't stray too far away from who we are at our core.

2 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and

your **perseverance**. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have **persevered** and have endured hardships for my name, and have **not grown weary**.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have **forsaken the love** you had at first
5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. 6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25: 4,5

Questions for consideration:

1. In what way has God used you to further His kingdom on earth?
2. Have you felt like giving up at times? What helped you persist? Read Romans 5:1-5; 2 Peter 5:1-15 and discuss ways to persist.
3. What was your relationship like when you first met the Lord and He seemed so real to you? How did it effect you? What changes happened in your behavior?
4. What does it mean, “I will remove your lampstand.”?
5. How did God speak to you today? What touched your mind/heart?
6. After this study, what changes will you make in your life? Steps?
7. Pray. Ask God to give you that passion for Him and the lost back.