

“I AM The True Vine”
John 15:1-11

Context

The book of John was written by the Apostle John as an eyewitness account to the final 3 and a half years of Jesus' life. Here we see Jesus and His disciples are celebrating the Passover together in what would become known as the last supper. He is giving them a few final encouragements and instructions before He is to suffer trial, beating, and crucifixion. In chapter 13:27-30 Judas leaves the group to go and initiate the betrayal. So, Jesus' teaching in chapter 14 and 15 are done with the remaining 11 disciples. At the end of chapter 14 Jesus tells the disciples to get up because they were leaving. As they are walking to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He would be arrested, He gives them an analogy of a vine and fruitful branches.

An analogy is given

- Jesus usually taught theological concepts through parables which are stories that utilize earthly figures to convey a Heavenly meaning.
- For this point Jesus uses an analogy.
- He compares Himself to a vine and His followers the branches.

v. 1

Ego Eimi

- There are two ways to say the phrase “I am” in the Greek language.
- The first is the word *Ego*.
- This is where we get the English word *ego* which is our personality or personal identity.
- The other way to say I am in Greek is the word *Eimi*.
- To us this seems redundant that Jesus would say “I AM, I AM”.
- This is not a translation error or Jesus misspeaking. It is direct and intentional.
- The only other time that this phrasing is seen is in the Greek Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament.
- Exodus 3:14
- Jesus is declaring His divinity with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His Heavenly origin with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His authority with this statement.

v. 2-6

Fruit bearing vs Non fruit bearing

Notice the word “every” used here.

- EVERY branch that does not bear fruit He takes away and EVERY branch that does bear fruit He prunes that it may bear more fruit.

Two very difficult statements.

- Branches that do not bear fruit are useless and therefore they’re cut off
- It’s no different than a gardener pruning dead branches from the tree in order that the tree would flourish.

- Healthy branches that are connected to a tree or vine cannot help but produce fruit in keeping with the species of the tree or the vine.
- Apple trees bear apples, olive trees bear olives, grape vines bear grapes.

As we abide in Him we will become more like Him.

- Christians WILL resemble our Master
- If we believe that we can or will bear fruit apart from Christ then we have been deceived.
- The consequence for those who do not abide in Christ is clearly laid out in Scripture and is eternity under God's judgment.

v. 7

It will be done for you...

- This is one of the texts that proponents of the prosperity gospel use to further their heretical teachings.
- Upon closer examination their interpretation of this verse falls utterly flat.
- The promise that whatever we ask will be done for us is predicated upon two things: 1) that we abide in Him and 2) His words abide in us.

What's the insinuation here?

- Jesus has just spent the previous 6 verses telling His disciples that all who do not bear fruit in keeping with Christ will be cut off.
- Only branches who are healthily connected to the vine will produce the type of fruit desired.
- The ultimate conclusion is that the branches will reflect the vine or tree to which it is connected.

As we are connected to Jesus, we will reflect that in our thoughts, desires, and will.

- So when Jesus is saying ask whatever you will, He is saying that our desires will change due to our being connected to the vine. We will be much more in tune with the will of God the longer we are connected to Him.
- James 4:3 *“You ask not and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”*

v. 8-11

God is glorified

- Jesus tells us that in all of this God is to be glorified by us bearing much fruit in keeping with Christ thereby proving that we are His disciples.

Love for Christ

- We are told by Christ that if we truly love Him we will keep His commandments
- Our love for Him is most evidenced by our obedience to Him and His Word
- We cannot rightly claim a love for Christ if we don't follow Him and in order to follow Him we must know Him deeply.
- “The modern church is producing passionate people with empty heads who love the Jesus they don't know very well.” - Voddie Baucham

How do we know Christ more intimately and remain connected to the Vine?

1) Scripture

- The self-revelation of God Almighty to us, His people.
- Inerrant, Infallible, and Sufficient

2) Prayer

- Repentance, Confession, Supplication, etc.
- Deepens our relationship with the Lord

3) Corporate Worship

- A picture of what Heaven will be like
- Meant to be comprised of people from all tribes, tongues, and nations

4) Fellowship with other Believers

- We were created as relational beings
- We need one another for support, encouragement, accountability, and prayer

What is the point?

- That we may be joyous in Christ.

All believers must bear fruit in keeping with our Master. If we do not then we cannot rightly claim to be God's people.