

Connected to Christ

John 15:1-11 ESV

“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 does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I 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 be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:1 ESV

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

- Jesus is making a divine declaration.
- You can connect yourself to many things hoping to be nourished and fruitful by them.
- Jesus says He is the TRUE vine!
 - All others are copies and counterfeits.
- Jesus said to Martha “One thing is necessary.”
- It is interesting that Jesus uses a fruit bearing plant.
 - The branches are total dependent on the vine.
 - Branches have to remain to be fruitful.
- Jesus says “My Father is the Vinedresser”
 - He determines when, where and how to prune.
 - This is the most important part of fruitfulness.

- He cuts away or cleans the dead or diseased.
- And He prunes the fruitful for more fruit!

John 15:2 ESV

Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Matthew 7:19 ESV

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Romans 11:16-21 ESV

If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.

Romans 11:23 ESV

And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

- Judas would be a good bad example here.
- Another example might be Ananias & Sapphira.
- Have you ever ask the Lord to be more fruitful?
- He knows exactly where to cut.
- Have you ever been pruned by our loving Father?
 - Stuff – car, home, career, your dreams.
 - Jobs
 - Relationships
 - Finances
 - Health

- It is good to remember His intentions. More fruit!
- He cuts away the bad for the good, the good for the better and ultimately the better for the best!
- Illus: Cut back the Hibiscus.
- The first way He cleans us is through His Word.

John 15:3 ESV

Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

John 17:17 ESV

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Ephesians 5:25-26 ESV

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word

- Be sensitive to the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit.
- He uses the Word to purify us.
- Shema – Listen and obey out of love for Him.

John 15:4-5 ESV

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

1 John 2:6 ESV

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

- What does it mean to Abide?
- Abide in various forms is used 11 times in 11 verses.
- Notice what comes first.
- Branches have no life of their own.
- Have you acknowledged that you are a branch?
- How do we abide?

- Living in His Word through obedience.
- What fruit is produced?
 - Answered prayer!
 - A growing love for God and other believers.
 - Leading others to Christ.
 - Giving
 - Praise, especially in tribulation.
 - Sanctification - Fruit of the Spirit.
- Jesus would not have told us to abide if we didn't have a part to play.

John 15:6 ESV

If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

- The sobering consequence of not abiding in Christ!

Matthew 13:40-42 ESV

Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹
The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

John 15:7 ESV

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

John 8:31-32 ESV

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- When our heart line up with His - answered prayers!
- We should share His wishes.

John 15:8 ESV

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- Fruit is living proof that we follow Christ!

John 15:9 ESV

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

John 15:10 ESV

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.

- Abide in Christ, in His Word and now His love.
- This is a consistent theme here.
- Loving God and obeying His commandments.
- Love! It is why we obey and how we abide in His love.

John 15:11 ESV

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

- So why does Jesus say these things?
- That His joy may be in us! First peace, now joy!
- Good thing we have a Helper!
- He wants our joy to be full or complete!

John 3:29 ESV

The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.

1 John 1:4 ESV

And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Prayer