

## ***The Vine and the Branches***

### **John 15:1-8**

#### Main Point:

Abide in Jesus and accept the Father's pruning so that you bear much fruit and glorify God.

1. As the true vine, Jesus is the source of your spiritual fruitfulness.
2. This is why you must abide in Him and let His words abide in you.
3. As the vinedresser, the Father is committed to your spiritual fruitfulness.
4. This is why you must accept and learn from His work of pruning.
5. In doing these things, you will glorify the Father and prove your salvation.

**Isaiah 5:7** 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry *for help*. (NKJV)

**Richard Phillips** "The fruit that God desired from Israel but did not find, he gained for himself by sending his own Son to be the true vine, from which his new and righteous people would live and bear good fruit."

**Charles Ross** "To abide in Christ is to adhere to him - to his blessed person, to his truth, to his cause, and to his people ..."

**Sinclair Ferguson** "Growth in holiness involves our doing what God's Word tells us. But more fundamental than our doing God's Word is what God's Word is doing to us!"

**Richard Phillips** "The 'secret' to power in prayer ... is to live closely enough to Christ that our own desires, expressed in prayer, have been molded by his Word."

**Matthew 7:16-17** 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (NKJV)

**J.C. Ryle** "Fruit is the thing that our Master desires to see in us; and he will not spare the pruning-knife if he sees we need it."

**Hebrews 12:10** 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. (NKJV)

**Psalms 119:67** 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. (NKJV)

**Sinclair Ferguson** "When the Vinedresser uses His pruning knife, the effects can be sore, and His ultimate purposes hidden. But He never makes a mistake. Not a cut is ever wasted."

**J.C. Ryle** "Men are content with a little Christianity, and a little fruit of the Spirit, and do not labor to be 'holy in all manner of conversation' ... They must not wonder if they enjoy little peace, feel little hope, and leave behind them little evidence."

**Charles Ross** "What could be more honoring to the husbandman than the abundant fruitfulness of the vine that he had watched over with such tender care?"