

John 15:1-2

“The True Vine”

Intro.

I. 3 vines of Scripture

A. Past vine = Israel – Is. 5:1-7; Jer. 2:21; Ezekiel 15; Hos. 10:1

B. Future vine = vine of the earth – Rev. 14:14-20

C. Present & permanent Vine = Jesus Christ Himself

Body

I. **Jesus; The True Vine**

A. V.1 – “I AM” the **true** vine and My Father is the vinedresser.

1) *I Am the true vine = there are false vines.*

a) False vines of truth; joy; strength, hope; purpose; Christianity.

i) **There are a lot of “vines” people attach themselves to, thinking they give the life they need, when in reality, they’re actually draining them. Some “vines” are flat out poisonous – 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 John 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 18-22.**

2) My Father is the vinedresser

a) Vinedresser (Gr.) = land worker; farmer

b) Responsibilities = planting; watering; harvesting; **pruning**

i) *God is the perfect vinedresser who knows exactly what we need to produce more fruit for His glory.*

B. **V.2 – The purpose of the branch**

1) *“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away...”*

- a) **"In Me"** = a genuine Christian – Matt. 15:13 (Ezekiel 17:9) = God "uproots" those not really His; He weeds out & winnows His fields (Judas – John 13:10).
 - i) Real Christians bear fruit for/of Christ – Matt. 3:8; 7:15-20; 13:18-23; Gal. 5:22-24
 - b) **"He takes away"** = any branch that doesn't bear fruit is dead & useless. If you plant a fruit tree you're expecting a return – Is. 5:1-4; Matt. 3:10.
- 2) **"...and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (The purpose of the fruit is to feed others!)**
 - a) **Every** branch = If we're not being pruned then we're not bearing fruit; ***if we're not bearing fruit...???***
 - b) Prunes (Gr.) = to cleanse from filthy impurity
 - i) Pruning involves cutting off overgrowth & dead limbs to allow room for new growth & fruit.
 - ii) While potentially painful, it's vitally necessary & **how does God prune us? >v.3 – "...the word..."** – 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12
 - 1) ***Many Christians want to be more fruitful for God without the pruning process.***
 - 2) ***God will always prune the Christian's life of filthy impurities in order to produce more fruit for Him.***
 - 3) May not always be sinful, but simply God getting us ready for what's next – 1 Pet. 4:12-13.
 - 4) ***And it takes time for the new sprouts of growth to become visible!!!***
 - c) **"More fruit"** (6x's in v.1-8; also in v.16)

- i) One harvest isn't enough; God not only wants us to produce fruit for Him, He wants us to produce **more** fruit. (Progression: no fruit; fruit & **more** fruit – v.2; **much** fruit – v.5,8) = we never reach a point in our life where we “retire” from His work!
- ii) We're never too old; never done enough; never time to relax – Acts 17: Paul > Thessalonica, Berea, Athens.

II. What is the “fruit” God desires?

A. Acts of sinless behavior – Is. 5:7(Justice & righteousness); Eph. 4:1-3

B. Acts of service:

- 1) Witnessing – Matt. 5:16; 9:37-38; 28:19-20; Rom. 1:13
- 2) Discipleship/Teaching His word – Deut. 4:9; Prov. 27:17; Is. 50:4; Acts 2:40-47; 28:30-31; 1 Tim. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 2:1-10.
- 3) Knowledge of His word – Ps. 119
- 4) Spiritual growth – Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:10; Heb. 5:12-6:8; 2 Peter 3:18.
- 5) Using the talents He gives – 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:7-16
- 6) Tithing/giving – Deut. 26:1-15; 2 Chron. 31; Neh. 10:28-39; Mal. 3:10; Heb. 7:5; Rom. 15:28; Phil. 4:17; Titus 3:14.
- 7) Worship – Heb. 13:15

C. Acts of sincerity; the life we live – Gal. 5:22-24