



Branches in the True Vine
31st in the “Life in his Name” Series
John 15:1-17, p. 901
May 5, 2019
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God explains how Jesus is the True Vine who bears fruit in our life and the life of the church.

The Text: John 15:1-17

1) Jesus uses an illustration to explain our place and his in God’s covenant and the biblical story (vv. 1-8).

Isaiah 5:1-7: ¹ ... My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ... ⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” ⁷ The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in.

a) *By declaring himself the True Vine, Jesus makes a major claim about his place in the biblical story.*

b) *The people of God were never expected to bear fruit on their own; they are branches “in” the Vine.*

Application: So what is the point about the illustration of the Vine, branches, and Farmer?

2) Jesus the Vine yields good fruit, and Christians and the Church are his bountiful branches (vv. 9-17).

a) *Fruit in the Individual – a real joy that only comes through our relationship with Christ (vv. 9-11).*

Application: If Jesus paid it all, do I get the tip? What is my responsibility in the relationship?

I receive Jesus (faith)

I enjoy Jesus (hope)

I use Jesus (love God)

I share Jesus (love neighbor)

b) *Fruit in the Church – a real love that only exists in the family of God, the local church (vv. 12-17).*

Application: If Jesus commands the church to love one another, why don’t we see it more?

Response

To “abide in the Vine” is an invitation to have a life filled with the love and joy of Christ.

Sunday Text Questions for John 15:1-17

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- 1) Starter Question: What are some of the symptoms of a person or church who have experienced true Christian conversion and have life in Christ?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Read Isaiah 5:1-7. What does Jesus' claim that he is the True Vine (rather than Israel) teach us about the role of Jesus in God's plan and how Jesus was always "Plan A?"
- 4) Now read Genesis 12:1-3. How does what God first announced to Abraham about the people of God come to fruition finally in and through the person and work of Jesus Christ?
- 5) What does the illustration Jesus uses in vv. 1-8 teach us about "remaining/abiding" in Jesus and about having a living faith that bears fruit?
- 6) Vv. 2 and 6 have been misapplied regularly in contemporary Christianity. What is a good interpretation of those verses in relation to the command to bear fruit? What are bad interpretations?
- 7) Since v. 7 cannot be a blank-check prayer verse, what is it teaching us?
- 8) What do vv. 9-11 teach us about having true joy?
- 9) In this text we are again (cf. 13:31-35) commanded to love fellow Christians. What do vv. 12-17 teach us about loving the people in our local church?
- 10) Concluding summary: What does this text teach us about *faith* (doctrine), *hope* (desire), and/or *love* (duty)?

Further study this week: Isaiah 5 on Israel as the Vine (Mon); Isaiah 27 on the promise of a fruitful vineyard (Tues); Psalm 80 on hope for a True Vine (Wed); James 2 on faith and fruit/works (Thurs); 1 John 2 on love for fellow Christians (Fri).