

“Abide in Me.”

John 15:1-12

1 "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 bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are 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 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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 so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

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We pick things up again in John chapter 15.

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

/Jesus is the True Vine as opposed to the fruitless vine: faithless Israel.\

In verse 1, Jesus identifies Himself as the True Vine. But of course He wasn't going to teach them about agriculture.

/Jesus is going to use facts about the vine and the branches to illustrate spiritual principles.\

/The vine has but one purpose: to produce grapes.\ A vine that does not produce grapes will be pulled out of the ground. It is only fit to be burned.

It's vital that the believer produces the fruit that the Father expects.

/Jesus wants His disciples to understand that they cannot bear spiritual fruit unless they abide in Him, and He abides in them. \

The Greek word for “abide” is found 10 times in John 15:1-10.

/The general meaning of this word “*meno*” is to stay or remain.\

/It commonly meant to stay in a home. \

John 4:40

So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

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/It can also mean to remain with someone, or to be united with someone – the Father, for example, or Christ.\

1 John 4:15

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

/In other places , *meno* means to continue in something, remain steadfast, persevere. Remaining in the love of God, for instance.\

1 John 4:16

16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

/Conversely, things are said to remain in a person (the word of God, for one).\

1 John 2:19

As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

OK, back to our passage in John 15:1-12.

/In verses 1-6, we find references to the natural vine and its branches. \

/Notice that Jesus intertwines statements about the vine with His teaching on His disciples bearing fruit. \

Take verse 4 for example:

John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

He drops the vine imagery after verse 6.

/From verse 7 on, its straight teaching on this subject of spiritual fruitfulness.\

So let's continue with our high-level look at this passage.

John 15:2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

/In John 15:2-3, Jesus is contrasting a believer with an unbeliever. \

He uses the figure of the branch in the Vine. Some branches are green shoots. They share the same life as the Vine. Other branches are dead.

/A branch that does not bear fruit is an unbeliever.\ This branch is dead wood.

It's likely that Jesus also had an unbeliever in mind in verse 6.

John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Verse 6 is talking about a person who does not abide in Christ. Some translations use the past tense here: *John 15:5 he was thrown outside as the branch is and was caused to wither.* (Kenneth S. Wuest).

/Such a one never abided in Christ.\ The Greek construction conveys the idea of not once.

/A branch that bears fruit is a believer.\

The vine supplies everything that the branch requires: life, water, nutrients, the formula for producing grapes. By itself, the branch is nothing more than a hollow tube. It's what flows through it that matters.

/Then in verses 4-10 of John 15, Jesus teaches that it is vital for the believer to abide in Christ so that he will produce fruit.\

So, verses 2 -3 separate the believer from the unbeliever.

Verses 4-10 are addressed to the believer.

/Finally, in verse 11, Jesus states the purpose of His teaching in verses 1-10.\

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

We need to see the things Jesus teaches in verses 1-10 through the lens of verse 11.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

/What is this fruit?\

Jesus doesn't explicitly state what it is. But He does provide several clues.

The first clue appears in verse 7:

John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

/So one fruit of abiding is **answered prayer.**\

Jesus talked earlier about answered prayer, in chapter 14.

John 14:13

13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Notice that the Father is glorified when the Son answers the prayers of the disciples. Jesus will make this point again in John 15:16.

So again, one fruit of the abiding is answered prayer.

Verse 8 provides the second clue:

John 15:8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

/So whatever this fruit is, if they bear it they will prove to be His disciples.

Earlier, Jesus told the Jews who believed in Him what they needed to do to be His disciples.

John 8:31

*31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If **you continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine;*

Then He told His disciples how men would know that they were His disciples.

John 13:34-35

*34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another.**"*

/So the fruit also includes **continuing in His word**, and **loving one another.**\

This fits like a glove with the subject of abiding in chapter 15.

John 15:7-9

7 "If you abide in Me, and **My words** abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; **abide in My love.**

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He will go on to tell them how to abide in His love:

10 "If **you keep My commandments**, you will abide in My love;

Then He rolls all His commandments into one:

12 "This is My commandment, **that you love one another**, just as I have loved you.

We get all that from His second clue: proving to be His disciples.

So again, the fruit also includes **continuing in His word**, and **loving one another.**

We get the third clue in Verse 11:

*John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you so that **My joy** may be in you, and that **your joy** may be made full.*

They will be full of joy as they remain in His love.

/Another fruit that the Vine produces is joy.\ Jesus is the Vine, and the branch that abides in the Vine bears the fruit of joy.

/1. Answered prayer. 2. Continuing in His word. 3. Loving one another. 4. Joy.\

We are in the body of Christ. Now the Spirit produces fruit in us:

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

So we end up here once again, on resurrection ground.

Rom 7:4

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.