



Jesus is the Vine

John 15:1-17

We are Called to Bear Fruit



- This is the final “I AM” statement in the Gospel of John (Exo. 3:14, John 8:58)
- The last “I AM” is referring to bearing fruit (6 times)
- The fruit of **righteousness** (Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:11; Heb. 12:11) (note: referring to believers)
- (Gal. 5:22-23) same as the fruit of the Spirit (notice: not “fruits”)
- As we grow we bear the “result” of our godliness (Col. 1:6)

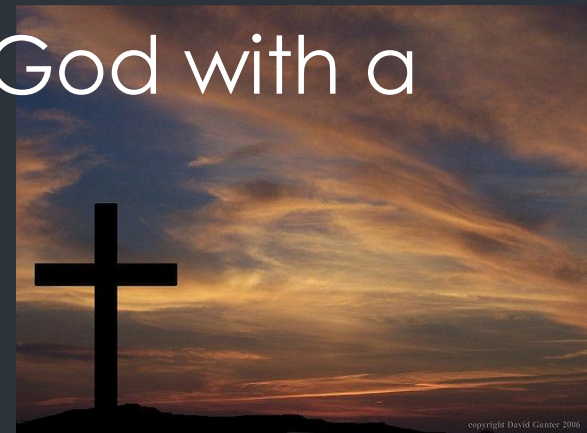
Jesus is the Vine

- ▶ Notice that Jesus refers Himself as the **vine**, not any other plant.
- ▶ The **whole plant** is the vine, not just the tree trunk.
- ▶ We are the branches, we are **a part** of the vine (in Christ, Rom. 6:9-13; 12:5)



Christ Alone

- Christ **alone** is not only about salvation (Acts 4:12)
- Without Him we can **do** nothing (v.5; Col. 1:16-18)
- Beyond that, without Him we **are** nobody—no identity, & all burnt up at the end (1 Cor. 3:11-15)
- **Jesus is life** (John 14:6) and apart from Him there is no life. Here it also refers to a **fruitful life**.
- Sadly we have replaced (or added to) God with a lot of other **stuff**—can you think of any?



How Do We Bear More Fruit



1. We are to be **pruned** (v.2)—

- I don't know if a branch will like that if it has feelings (which we do) but it is necessary (Isa. 64:8; Jer. 18:6)
- We are pruned by God's word (v.3) (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 4:12)

2. We are to **abide in Christ** (v.4-7)

- To abide is to stay and remain at all times—by faith
- A branch is useless if it is not with the vine, and so are we
- It is speaking of the loss of **function** (bear fruit), not the loss of salvation



3. We are to abide in **God's love** (v.7-9)

- We abide in Christ as we know **how much** He loves us
- And we have no problem coming before God for anything (v.7) because we know he loves us and always has His **best interest for us**

4. We are to **love one another** in **obedience** (v.10-17)

- The only proper expression of God's love in our heart is to love the people around us—a clear demonstration that God loves us and His love has changed us (2 Cor. 5:14-17)
- Our **friendship** with God will grow (v.14) as we love one another



I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:5 NIV

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Let us be a
fruit-bearing
church
together

