

THRIVING



IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

John 15

Jesus Is the Vine—Followers Are Branches

“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 Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you remain in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in Me, and My words remain 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 also have loved you; remain in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain 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.

Disciples’ Relation to Each Other

¹² “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, because all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, that you love one another.

Disciples' Relation to the World

¹⁸“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love *you* as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well; if they followed My word, they will follow yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of My name, because they do not know the One who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ The one who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. ²⁵ But *this has happened* so that the word that is written in their Law will be fulfilled: ‘THEY HATED ME FOR NO REASON.’

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
3. How do you think we are supposed to respond to this passage?
4. What are you excited to share with others?

Pray whatever the Lord lays on your heart as a result of this passage.

“In the late sixties, Coca-Cola created an ad-campaign called “The Real Thing” after research had shown that “people seek the real, the original and the natural as an escape from phoniness.” There is security in knowing something is genuine, that it is real, that it can be trusted. I am struck by the opening line of this passage: *I am the true vine*. What a reminder! This chapter speaks to my potential in Christ, and my confidence in this promise comes from the knowledge that the Son of God is the real thing!”— Pastor Pete

“In the Old Testament, when Israel was the vine, it was always accompanied with a declaration that they were a vine that did not bear fruit and, therefore, the wrath of God was coming. When you heard vine terminology in the first century if you were a Jew, it was almost always a pronouncement of judgment, yet Jesus here is turning that on its head. He says, “I am the true vine.” In short, he’s saying, “I am doing what you cannot do, and I am being what you have not been able to be.”

— Matt Chandler