

**Jack (on First John parallels)**

"To me, the vine metaphor is about not trying to be popular and successful in a worldly sense. Or expressed differently, it's **about not loving the world**, as well as **about believing and obeying Jesus**. True believers are those who do not love the world and so are hated by the world as a result (15:18-25)."

"First John also teaches that not loving the world is the flip side of abiding in Christ and loving one another. In fact it shows that it's impossible to love other believers or abide in Christ when we love the world. So John chapter 15 is **much like First John**. "Abiding" and "love" are key terms in both. (Check out 1 John 2:5-6, 15-17, and 3:13-24, for starters.)"

"Also I believe that First John and John chapter 15 are both **about how to have assurance of salvation** and joy in the Lord though faithful and fruitful living."

Dr. Penwell (concluding thoughts on ch. 15)

"The vine and the branches in ch. 15 are **a metaphor** rather than part of a story with a well defined ending. Moreover, not everything that Jesus taught here is expressed metaphorically. For example, in 15:12 he commanded us to love one another without using a figure of speech. Therefore the chapter is **long with much repetition**, such as **on prayer** in 15:7 and 15:16, with many sub-points shown as grapes in the diagram. The important thing is to understand and apply Jesus' main points **about our relationships as believers**. Whenever I read a passage like this, my first question to myself is, "What are the main points?" Understanding the metaphor helps answer this question. Here's my outline."

"The fruitful and joyful Christian life is:

1. rightly relating to God in Christ (15:1-11),
2. rightly relating to one another (15:12-17), and
3. rightly relating to the world (15:18-27)."

<i>the people</i> <i>Jesus, the true Vine</i>	<i>the principles</i> <i>(general principles)</i>	<i>to the point</i> <i>my personal applications</i>
Jesus taught his disciples how to be fruitful by trusting and obeying him and loving one another rather than the world.	We should identify with and love the Lord and his people rather than trying to succeed in the world by fitting in well.	