

Sam Allberry, Guest Speaker
Sunday, June 25, 2017

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“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. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

(John 15:1-17)

Questions

1. Discuss the vine and the branches analogy in John 15:1-7; do we sometimes reverse these roles in our lives?
2. Discuss the concept of a believer being pruned; who is the gardener, and why do we trust Him to prune us?

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3. Discuss the purpose and necessity of pruning. Why is pruning performed periodically and regularly?
4. Since we are pruned to be fruitful, what do we draw on to produce fruit? Are there other options available?
5. What kind of fruit are we supposed to be producing?
6. Discuss obedience as a requirement to abide or remain in Jesus.
7. Discuss the necessity of prayer as a requirement to abide or remain in Jesus; what does prayer achieve, who is it for and why?
8. How is Jesus an example of being fruitful, obedient and prayerful in the service of our Father? How does Jesus help us through our Christian walk?
9. Why are we commanded to love one another? Why is it a commandment?