

I Am the True Vine

John 15:1-11

The Illustration of the Vine (15:1-6)

- *The True Vine*
 - The Old Testament frequently uses the symbol of a vineyard to represent **Israel**.
 - Israel's failure to produce fruit resulted in God's **judgment**. (Isaiah 5:1-7).
 - Our ability to produce fruit is the result of uniting with **Jesus**.
 - The New Testament uses several images to describe Christ's relationship with His church:
 - The foundation and the **building**. (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20-22)
 - The head and the **body**. (1 Cor. 6:15; Eph. 1:22-23)
 - The husband and the **bride**. (Eph. 5:31-32)
 - The vine and the **branches**. (John 15:1-11)
- *The Vinedresser*
 - He **cuts** away lifeless branches.
 - He **cultivates** living branches.
- *The Branches*
 - **Fruitful Branches**: Hear the promise for those who abide in Christ:
 - We have been made **clean** by Jesus. (3)
 - We must remain **connected** to Jesus. (4-5)
 - Without Him, we can do **nothing**.
 - Through Him, we can do **all** things. (Phil. 4:13)
 - **Fruitless Branches**: See the price for those who are apart from Christ:
 - You will bear no **fruit**.
 - You will be thrown into the **fire**. (Ez. 15:1-8; Matt. 13:40-42)

The Explanation of the Vine (15:7-10)

- We bear fruit through answered **prayer**. (7)
- We bear fruit through obedient **love**. (9-10)
 - Obedience doesn't **earn** love.
 - Obedience is the **evidence** of love.
 - We love by keeping his commandments.
 - We keep his commandments by loving others as Christ loved us. (John 15:12)
- We bear fruit through inexhaustible **joy**. (11)

The Application of the Vine (15:8; 11)

- To what end do we bear fruit?
 - We seek to bear fruit so that the Father is **glorified**. (8)
 - Fruitless lives cause the name of Jesus to be dishonored.
 - Fruitless lives cause the glory of Jesus to be diminished.
 - We seek to bear fruit so that we are joyfully **satisfied**. (11)

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