

I AM THE TRUE VINE – JOHN 15

THE I AM'S OF JESUS #8

Today we conclude this series. Up to this point, we have seen Jesus as the Great I AM, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Truth and the Life, the Resurrection and the Life, and the Door. Today we will see Jesus claiming – I AM the True Vine. We begin with:

1. **I AM the True Vine – John 15:1** -. The vine that Jesus is referring to is the trunk and the roots of the grapevine. The trunk and the roots provide all of the juice and nutrients to the branches so that the branches can produce grapes. Jesus states that He is the “True Vine”. This implies that there have been false vines. In a spiritual sense, these false vines are those false religions and false leaders who energize lost religious people. Jesus is the True Vine from God by which believers can draw all that they need to rightly know and serve the Creator.
2. **Two types of branches – vs. 2** -. Just like there are two types of vines, true and false, so there are also two kinds of branches. I believe that these two types of branches represent two types of believers. Some believe that the first type of branch is an unbeliever. I disagree as Jesus states that this type of branch is “in me”. Both types of branches are still growing out of the same Vine, which is Christ. I believe that the first branch is one that is disconnected from Christ in practice. Any believer that fails to stay close to Christ and live for Him will undoubtedly produce no fruit. God will remove that branch so that it can no longer be a bad testimony. God can do this through Church discipline, through the wrong decisions of a believer and even death. Only God knows when to “cut-off” the branch. This is never where a believer wants to be. The 2nd type of branch is one that is bearing fruit. God will then “purge” that branch, cutting away those things that could potentially limit the growth of fruit. This will allow the believer who does produce fruit to continue to produce fruit. The question is what kind of a branch are you?
3. **We are clean positionally – vs. 3** -. This verse states the dichotomy of the Christian life. God’s people are “clean” or positionally perfect in the sight of God by virtue of our salvation. The dichotomy is found in the fact that we are many times “unclean” in our daily life because of sin. We are saved even though we may not always feel saved. We are right with God positionally even though we can be out of fellowship because of sin.

4. **Abide in Christ – vs. 4-5 -.** The idea of abiding again has to do with the vine and branches. The branches must “abide” or stay connected to the vine in order to produce fruit. The moment you cut the branch from the vine, you cut the life out of the branch. When a believer draws away from the Lord, that Christian will be away from the necessary nutrients he needs to produce fruit for the Lord. If you want to be a productive fruit producing Christian, you must stay connected to the Lord. That connection requires a right life, time in your Bible, a consistent prayer life and faithfulness in every aspect of your Christian life.
5. **The consequences of not abiding – vs. 6 -.** The consequences of not abiding in Christ is a withered and worthless Christian life. The idea of men gathering the branches and throwing them in the fire has nothing to do with the loss of salvation. It simply relays what is done with withered branches. They are good for nothing and must be gathered up and burned. A Christian who does not abide in Christ and as a result does not produce fruit is worthless to the Lord. This is not where you want to be a Christian.
6. **The benefits of abiding in Christ – vs. 7-8 -.** In this verse, we see several wonderful benefits for the believer who abides in Christ:
- **A successful prayer life – vs. 7 -.** This of course follows the Biblical requirements for prayer. Anything that we ask of God must be according to His will.
 - **A test of discipleship – vs. 8 -.**
 - **Fruit production – vs. 8 -.**
 - **God’s glory – vs. 8 -.**