



Matthew 15:4-5 “Abiding in the Vine”

Jesus Christ is the Vine, the true Vine. Believers are branches of this Vine. The root is unseen, and our life is hidden with Christ; the root bears the tree, diffuses sap to it, and in Christ are all supports and supplies.

The branches of the vine are many, yet, meeting in the root, are all but one vine; thus, all true Christians, though in place and opinion distant from each other, meet in Christ. Believers, like the branches of the vine, are weak, and unable to stand but as they are borne up. The Father is the Husbandman. Never was any husbandman so wise, so watchful, about his vineyard, as God is about his church, therefore we must be fruitful.

From a vine, we look for grapes, and from a Christian we look for a Christian with a good temperament, disposition, and life. We must honor God, and do good; this is bearing fruit and even fruitful branches need pruning

The word of Christ is spoken to all believers; and there is a cleansing virtue in that word, as it works grace, and works out corruption. And the more fruit we bring forth, the more we abound in what is good, the more our Lord is glorified. In order to be fruitful, we must abide in Christ, we must have union with Him by faith. It is the great concern of all Christ's disciples, **constantly to keep up dependence upon Christ, and communion with Him.**

True Christians find by experience, that any interruption in the exercise of their faith, causes holy affections to decline Those who abide not in Christ, though they may flourish for a while in outward profession, yet come to nothing. The fire is the fittest place for withered branches; they are good for nothing else. **Let us seek to live more simply on the fullness of Christ, and to grow more fruitful in every good word and work, so may our joy in Him and in his salvation, be full.**

John Chapter 15:1-17 Abiding In Jesus-The Vine (NIV)

I am the True Vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch that does not bear fruit, while every branch that bears fruit, He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I will 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.

I am the Vine, you are the branches, If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, this is to my Fathers glory that you bear much fruit; showing yourselves to be My disciples.

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My Love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed My Fathers commands and remain in His Love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

You are My friends, if you do what I command. I 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. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name. this is My command, Love each other.

John Chapter 15:1-17 Message Version



I am the Real Vine and My Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of Me that does not bear grapes.

And every branch that is grape-bearing He prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. Live in Me. Make your home in Me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. I am the Vine, you are the branches.

When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with Me and My Words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.

Abiding In The Vine – Additional Brief Study with our 2021 Recap of Bible Studies we learned from in the tough year of 2020 – www.saltshakinsister.com – b_chapmond@yahoo.com

This is how My Father shows who he is, when you produce grapes, when you mature as disciples. I've loved you the way My Father has loved Me. Make yourselves at home in My love. If you keep My commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done, kept My Fathers commands and made Myself at home in His love.

I've told you these things for a purpose; that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command. I am no longer calling you a servant because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No I've named you friends because everything I've heard from My Father.

You didn't choose Me, remember, I chose you and put you into the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you. But remember the ROOT COMMAND Love one another.

Quotes from Believers Bible Commentary on John 15:1-17

15:2 The Branch that bears fruit is the Christian who is growing more like Jesus. Even such vines need to be pruned or cleansed. Just as a real vine must be cleaned from insects, mildew, and fungus, so a Christian must be cleansed from worldly things that cling to him.

15:3 The cleansing agent is the Word of God. The disciples had originally been cleansed by the Word at the time of their conversion. Just as the Savior had been talking to them, His Word had a purifying effect on their lives. Thus, this verse may refer to justification and sanctification,

15:4 To abide means to stay where you are. The Christian has been placed in Christ, that is his position. In daily walk, he should stay in intimate fellowship with the Lord. A branch abides in a vine by drawing all its life and nourishment from the vine. So we abide in Christ by spending time in prayer, reading and obeying His Word, fellowshiping with His people, and being continually conscious of our union with Him.

As we thus maintain constant contact with Him, we are conscious of His abiding in us and supplying us with spiritual strength and resources. The branch can only bear fruit as it abides in the vine. The only way believers can bear the fruit of a Christ like character is by living in touch with Jesus moment by moment.

15:5 Jesus Christ Himself is the Vine, believers are vine branches. It is not a question of the branch living its life for the Vine, but simply of letting the life of the vine flow out through the branches. Sometimes we pray Lord help me to live my life for you. It would be better to pray, Lord Jesus, live out your life through me.

Without Jesus, we can do nothing A vine branch has one great purpose to bear fruit. It is useless for making furniture or for building homes. It does not even make good firewood. But it is good for fruit bearing as long as it abides in the vine.

15:7 Abiding is the secret of successful prayer life. The closer we get to the Lord, the more we will learn to think His thoughts after Him. The more we get to know Him through His Word, the more we will understand His will. The more our will agrees with His, the more we can be sure of having our prayers answered.

15:8 As the children of God exhibit the likeness of Jesus to the world, the Father is glorified. People are forced to confess that He must be a great God when He can transform such wicked sinners into such Godly saints. Notice the progression into such Godly saints. Notice the progression in this chapter: Fruit (vs 2) more fruit (vs 8) much fruit. 15: 9 The love which the Savior has for us is the same as the love of the Father for the Son.

Our hearts are made to bow in worship when we read such words, it is the same in quality and degree. It is a vast, wide, deep, unmeasurable love, that passed knowledge, and can never be fully comprehended by man. It is a deep where all our thoughts are drowned. Abide in My Love said our Lord. This means we should continue to realize His love and to enjoy it in our lives.

15:10 The first part of the verse 10 tells us how we can abide in His love; it is by keeping His commandments. There is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey. The second half of the verse sets before us our perfect example. The Lord Jesus kept His Father's commandments. Everything He did was in obedience to the will of God. He remained in the constant enjoyment of the Father's love.

15:11 Jesus found His own deep joy in communion with God His Father. He wanted His disciples to have that joy that comes from Him. He wanted His joy to be theirs. Man's idea of joy is to be as happy as he can by leaving God out of his life.

The Lord taught that real joy comes by taking God INTO one's life as much as possible. That your joy may be full or fulfilled. Their joy would be fulfilled in abiding in Christ and in keeping His commandments.

15:14 We show that we are His friends by doing whatever He commands us. This is not the way we become His friends, but rather the way we exhibit it to the world.

15:15 The Lord here emphasized the difference between servants and friends. Servants are simply expected to do the work marked out for them, but friends are taken into one's confidence. To the friends we reveal our plans for the future. Confidential information is shared with him.

In one sense the disciples would always continue to be servants of the Lord, but they would be more than this, they would be friend. The Lord was even now revealing to them the things which He had heard from His Father. He was telling them of His own departure, the coming of the Holy Spirit, His own coming again and their responsibility to Him in the meantime. Someone has pointed out that and branches, we receive as disciples, we follow, and as friends we commune.

15:16 We should go and bear fruit. Fruit may mean the graces of the Christian life, such as love, joy, peace, goodness, self-control, etc. Or it may mean souls won for the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a close link between the two. It is only as we are manifesting the first kind of fruit that we will ever be able to bring forth the second.

The expression that your fruit should remain leads us to think that fruit means the salvation of souls. The Lord chose the disciples to go and bring forth lasting fruit. He was not interested in mere professions of faith in Himself, but in genuine cases of salvation.

15:17 The Lord was about to warn the disciples about the enmity of the world. He began by telling them to love one another, to stick together and to stand united against the foe.