



“I AM THE TRUE VINE”

Series: “I AM”, Part 7 of 7

Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: John 15:1-11

Big Idea: The inevitable fruit that flows from abiding in Christ is Christian character coupled with some measure of Kingdom effectiveness.

John 15:1-11, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear 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, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s 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 Father’s 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.

“Godly character that glorifies God, as expressed through thoughts, attitudes and actions.”

Galatians 5:22-23a, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self- control.”

“Godly character that glorifies God, as expressed through thoughts, attitudes and actions.”

Four Scenarios:

“No fruit” (verse 2)

“Fruit” (verse 2)

“More fruit” (verse 2)

“Much fruit” (verses 5 & 8)

I. WHEN WE PERSISTENTLY BEAR NO FRUIT, GOD WILL DISCIPLINE US.

John 15:2a, "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit."

Matthew 14:20, "They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over."

Matthew 27:32, "As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross."

Deuteronomy 8:5, "Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you."

Hebrews 12:5-6, "And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." {NASV}

Hebrews 12:11, "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness." {NASV}

II. WHEN WE ARE CONSISTENTLY BEARING SOME FRUIT, GOD WILL PRUNE US.

John 15:2b, "Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

Psalms 119:67, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word."

Psalms 119:71, "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees."

III. WHEN WE ARE BEARING MUCH FRUIT, GOD WILL CALL US TO EVER DEEPER LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL INTIMACY.

John 15:4-5, "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."

John 15:5b, "Apart from me you can do nothing."