



September 8, 2013
A Disciple's Roots
John 15:1-11

Becoming a devoted follower of Jesus Christ should be the ultimate goal of every child of God. However, that relationship will never mature unless we are fully established as a branch in the vine as described in John 15.

This is the seventh and last "I AM" statements of Jesus that is recorded in the Gospel of John. This section of Scripture exposes both our privileges and responsibilities as a disciple.

Unless a person abides in Jesus Christ, he or she cannot be a Christian. Spiritual life comes from the vine, nothing else.

I. Jesus' Clarification of the Vine

John 15:1a (ESV) *"I am the true vine..."*

- **Three Vines Described In Scripture:**

1. The past vine
2. The future vine
3. The present vine

II. Jesus' Clarification of the Vinedresser

John 15:1b *"...my Father is the vinedresser."*

- The greatest judgment God can bring to a believer is to leave him alone.

III. Jesus' Clarification of the Abiding Branches

- **Three Marks of a True Branch:**

- 1. They bear fruit**

- There is no such thing as a fruitless Christian...not every disciple bears a bumper crop...but where there is life there is always fruit."

2. They abide

- **Fruit a Christian Produces When He Is Abiding In the Vine:**

- a) The fruit of winning others to Jesus Christ.
- b) The fruit of making disciples.
- c) The fruit of holiness and obedience.
- d) The fruit of giving.
- e) The fruit of good works.
- f) The fruit of praise.

IV. Jesus' Clarification of the Non-Abiding Branches

John 15:6 (KJV) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

- Never build your theology on a parable or an allegory. Jesus was teaching one main truth— the fruitful life of the believer.