

Gospel Talk Bible Study  
**God With Us**  
A Study of John's Gospel: "The True Vine"  
John 15:1-11

September 9, 2020

---

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." – John 15:4

**I. The Life-Giver**

- a. As the *True Vine*, Jesus is the giver of life. As the branches, we have the privilege and responsibility of sharing life.
- b. *God as the vinedresser*, seeing to it that the *vine* will bear all the living fruit He intends. And that includes His attention to you, His branches.
- c. There are many reasons for pruning trees: 1) to allow more light into the branches; 2) to allow fruitful branches to produce more fruit.
- d. If we take our privilege and use our responsibility of being connected to the Vine, we will be pruned.
- e. If we do not share the Jesus' life-giving force, we will also be pruned.
- f. Without the vine, the branch is weak and useless. It is good for bearing or burning, but not building. (Ezekiel 15:1-8)
- g. Do not miss these lessons: God takes away fruitless branches, and God prunes fruitful branches. Bottomline: He cuts away the lifeless, and he cultivates the living. (Luke 8:18)

**II. Abiding, the Fruit for Life**

- a. The symbolism of the Vine and branches is similar to the Head and the body. We have a living relationship with Christ and we belong to Him.
- b. What does it mean to abide? It means to stay in fellowship with Christ so that His life can work through us to produce fruit.
- c. *Abiding* involves the spiritual activity of the study of the Word of God; confession of sin so that nothing hinders our fellowship; and obedience.
- d. What Jesus is teaching his disciples, and us today, is that we are to have a relationship with the Word of God.
  1. We should meditate in it like Joshua, teach and preach it like Jonah, Jeremiah and Paul, even when it is uncomfortable.
  2. We should release its power like Elijah, Peter and James. It should comfort us as it did David.
- e. Psalm 119 is dedicated to expressing what it means to be in fellowship with God's Word.
  1. Psalm 119:97-103 sets a standard for abiding.

**III. Application of the Word**

- a. This text places great emphasis on our fellowship with Christ. Abiding is not a casual acceptance of Christ. Can a branch, a disciple of Jesus, have eternal life in union with Jesus and then lose it and be finally condemned?
- b. Can a person be one of Christ's sheep and then not His sheep? Can a disciple be a true disciple and then not a disciple? My answer is no.
- c. Judas is the clearest example of a branch that was attached to Jesus for three years but did not abide. He was in a close relationship with Jesus, but not a true believer. (John 6:64-65)
- d. Are we setting our own standard for abiding?
- e. There is an explicit link between John 15:8 and John 8:31, between a true disciple and a false disciple, and between a fruitful branch and a dry branch.
- f. Abiding in the vine, does not make you a true disciple. It proves you are one, because of the fruit!