

The True Vine

John 15:1-8 - *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 **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. 5 **I am the vine**; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, it is he that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 **If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask** whatever you wish, **and it will be done for you**. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

Jesus makes this statement - **I AM THE TRUE VINE**. - I'm the real deal. I'm the only real vine. There are other things you can be connected to...other things you can try to draw life from, but they won't bring you life.

Abide - to live. To dwell. To stay in or remain in.

BENEFITS OF ABIDING IN JESUS

1. WE BEAR FRUIT

The prerequisite for bearing fruit...is being present with him

What is the fruit produced in us when we abide in him?

- **Galatians 5:22-23** - *22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

We can't produce fruit by ourselves. Sometimes I catch myself trying to produce it by myself...doesn't work well...because I can't.

Jesus is saying I'm the one who does the work...so without me...you can't do anything.

John 15:5 - *5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, it is he that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**.*

2. **WE GET PRUNED** - *cleaning, washing - Taking away of anything that isn't helping us grow.*

John 15:2 - *2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and **every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.***

- *Cutting back of things that hinder our growth...Fear, anxiety, laziness, anger, harshness etc*

3. OUR PRAYERS ARE EFFECTIVE

John 15:7 - *7 **If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask** whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

The bible says - The prayer of a righteous person is effective. It's powerful.

The effectiveness of our prayers...are tied to our connectedness. *Not dependent on how articulate we are, or how smart we sound...but how connected we are to Jesus.*

He's been trying to get them to understand is this - I am the true vine.

If you stay connected to me... I will do what you cannot. I will be what you cannot.

HOW DO WE STAY CONNECTED TO HIM?

John 15:9-10 - *9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** 10 If you keep my commandments, **you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*

It's not "obey my commands and you gain more of my love" - We can't earn more love.
It's - abide in my love...experience me...and out of that love you will keep my commandments.

IT'S A CYCLE - **The more I love the more I obey...the more I obey, the more I love.**

**FILL YOUR LIFE WITH WHAT STIRS UP YOUR AFFECTION FOR JESUS.
CUT AWAY WHAT ROBS YOU OF THOSE AFFECTIONS.**

What stirs your affection? - *Spending time with him: In His word, in worship, in prayer.
Spending time with the people of God. Those things stir your affections.*

What are things that rob you of your affection? - *Could be entertainment, it could be the news, it could be friends that want nothing to do with God.*

John 15:11 - *11 These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.***

The key to a JOY FILLED life is staying connected to Jesus.

Our focus can't be on what's around us...but on who's in us.
Not on what's affecting us on the outside but who's directing us on the inside.

The whole point if this I AM statement is this... If you connect to me...you're gonna be ok.
You can rest in knowing you're connected to a vine bigger than you. Stronger than you.

You have a choice of what or who you're going to connect to. Where do you find life?

CHALLENGE

- 1. Fill your life right now with things that stir up your affection for Jesus.**
- 2. Look at what you need to disconnect from that robs your affection.**
- 3. Choose to find joy in simply being connected to him today**