

The True Vine (John 15:1-17)

The new birth is not the end. It is the beginning of new life in Christ, abiding in him and he in us. As we abide in Christ, we will have his presence and power. We will produce fruit in two ways: (1) growing and maturing in Christ, and (2) winning others to Christ.

I. The Caretaker-vv 1-2

- The Father's care-v 1. Christ is the true vine, and his father is the husbandman, or caretaker.
- The Father's concern-v 2. Our caretaker takes away that which may hinder spiritual growth (Prov. 3:11-12).

II. The Cleanliness-v 3

- Cleansing the actions-Gal. 5:16. Walk in the Spirit.
- Cleansing the attitudes- Prov. 23:7. Your attitudes not only control you, but they show your character.
- Cleansing the affections- I Cor. 13. This love should grow daily in the life of the Christian.

III. The Cooperation-vv 4-6

- Detained-v 4. Abiding in him means fellowship-I John 1:7. Wait before him-Isa. 40:31.
- Dependence-v 5. Without him, we can do nothing- with him, we can do all things-Phil. 4:19.
- Destruction-v 6. Those who don't produce fruit are cast into the fire. Jesus warns of repentance-Luke 13:3. A changed life is necessary. See II Cor. 5:17.

IV. The Consecration-vv 7-8

- Prayer-v 7
 1. Promise: abiding in him (I John 3:6).
 2. Power: asking and receiving God's answer- Jer. 33:3.
- Pleasure- v 8. The Father is gloried when we produce fruit. In so doing, we are Jesus disciples.

V. The Commandments-vv 9-12

- Steadfast love- v 9. We should imitate God's love toward us in our relationships with others.
- Sure love-v 10. If we keep his commands, we are in his love(cf John 14:15).
- Successful love-v .11. Obedience brings joy (John 16:24).
- Surrendered love- v. 12. Love as he loved(Matt. 22:39).

VI. The Commission-vv. 13-17

- Measureless love-v 13. His love was manifested by his death upon the cross(John 3:16).
- Method love-v 14. We are friends of Christ if we follow his commands.
- Manner of love- vv 15-17. Love gives. Love shares. Love wins the lost. Love caused the followers of Jesus to obey- Mark 16:16-20. Because they obeyed, they had results.

Conclusion: Are you abiding in Christ? Do you walk and talk with him daily? Are you growing daily-producing fruit-and reaching out to the lost for Christ? Allow him to remove those things from your life that keep you from being the best for him.

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