

In Him is Life: Jesus in the Gospel of John

Today's message: **The Vital Christian Life**

Jesus: The True Vine of God

John 15:1(ESV)

¹"I am **the true vine**, and my Father is the vinedresser."

Israel as God's Vineyard: Isaiah 5, Psalm 80

Jesus _____ Israel as the focus of God's plan of salvation.

Implications of the vine imagery for God's people today:

The Father: Divine owner/Caretaker

John 15:2 (ESV)

²Every 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.

Purpose of a vine:

2 primary tasks of the vinedresser:

1) Remove ...

2) Prune ...

Hebrews 12:11 (ESV)

¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later **it yields the peaceful fruit** of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

A spiritual law: _____ !

John 15:3 (ESV)

³Already **you are clean** because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Abiding: The Key to effective, Missional living

John 15:4-10 (ESV)

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, he it is 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. 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.

“abiding” is ...

4 lessons on abiding in Christ:

1. **Only spirit-enabled people ...**
2. **Abiding requires ...**
3. **Our relationship with Jesus is a ...**
4. **Abiding is demonstrated in ...**

The Benefit: Joy

John 15:11 (ESV)

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