

John 15 The Vine & the Branches

Pres: Janice O'Neil
Cynthia - guitar

(Isa. 5:1-7), (Hos. 10:1) — God refers to Israel as His Vine in the O.T.

Now Jesus says that He is the TRUE VINE. It is not Israel or the Church, but Jesus who is the TRUE VINE.

There are 3 kinds of branches

1. Branches in Me (Christ) that do not bear fruit → airō — can mean take away, carrying away, or lift up.

airō — take away
36 left
- carrying away

In horticulture — especially vine growing it is counter-productive to cut off branches. Rather you tie them up (eg. tomatoes) so they can get the sun and the air in order to enable them bear fruit.

(Jo. 11:41 — "raised" his eyes — same word airō)

airō How is God going to treat you if you are unfruitful in Christ? Paul says you need to see your position in Christ — in the heavens. The Lord doesn't cut us off from Himself when we are unfruitful, but rather He works with us to bring us into fruitfulness by pouring out his love in our hearts.

2. Branches in Me (Christ) will be pruned to bear more fruit. As you grow a vine it is important to prune off the bushy twigs which sap the strength — so it will bear more fruit — For those of us who are "in Christ".

TRUE WINE

He

not

left up

at

made

" "

was

not cut up of position

pressed

order

top

21 the Lord will prune away those things which are extraneous - not necessarily immoral things - just things that sap your strength and take up your time unnecessarily. When the Lord deals with these areas it's not that He makes you feel guilty but rather that He opens your eyes to how unnecessary these extraneous twigs are in your life - you will wonder why you once thought those twigs important it will be easy to let them go.

The other area God needs to prune is our self-life - We can do good deeds by ourselves in our own strength. What does this mean in (v.4,5) "that it cannot bear fruit of itself - apart from me you cannot do anything" - the point is, deeds done apart from the vine are of no value to God, of no spiritual use. God views these deeds as useless (1 Cor. 3) wood, hay.

The only works which are good are those motivated by God, directed by God and empowered by God - i.e. God does them through us.

By nature we are all autonomous - doing deeds apart from God - even as believers. The Bible calls this our "self-life" and God prunes it ruthlessly. As long as our

①

time in

②

eyes
extraneous

self

yes

nothing

no value

word, key value

③

④

③ group word

does


conjunctions

3) self-trust remains we cannot bear fruit for God.

We should be thankful that God does this pruning - & we should ask Him to continue the process

③ One who does not abide in me ^(Christ) - is thrown away - & dries up. This refers to the one who has never joined himself to the vine - to Christ - this is an unbeliever, without the life of the vine - Jesus - ~~the~~ any branch (person) will wither & be burned. A branch cut-off from the vine is useless - it does not make up into a beautiful piece of furniture. Branches from a vine are really of no value. We were created by God to have a vital union with Him, apart from Him we are dead right now, even before eternity begins (Eph 2:1, Jo. 3:3) We need to let people know this for their sake

How does a branch bear fruit? not by effort - just by a vital union with the vine. "Abide in me" v 4, 5

I ~~Jo. 14:23~~ Jo. 14:23 ← First step
Second Step (I Jo. 2:27 - Col. 3:2 - Rom. 8:4-8) +  Abide in You
as
Abide in Me

trust

hours up

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss

miss



4 How to abide

① Prayer - Christ is our friend - He calls u
His friends → (Phil 4:6-7) - fellowship
with him (v. 7) + ask whatever we wish
and listen - it's a two-way communication

② Two or three together - fellowship together
in the Word (11 Tim 2:15) (Ps. 119:105) - "setting our
minds on the things of Christ (11 Cor. 3)
beholding the glory of the Lord in a mirror -
helps to change us into His image - look
at Christ

③ What is fruit? When we affect others
for Christ this is fruit.
But the fruit referred to here is Gal. 5:22
the fruit of the Spirit

(v. 9) Abide in my love is The only way to
relax & allow Christ's love to flow through
you (v. 10 Keeping His commandment to love)
and to have His Joy - a joy that
makes us full (v. 11) Jesus had this JOY -
He speaks of it 7 times right here in the upper room
& yet think of what he was facing → death
on the cross. (v. 13)

Let us meditate for a few minutes on Heb. 12:2
fixing our eyes upon Jesus, the author & perfecter of our faith who
for the JOY set before him endured the cross, despising the
shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"

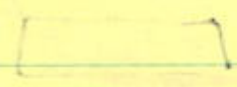
Prayer
←

fellows

Wood

James

glass



to a

H to Joy

facing

7.

12:25

on