

Communion with God
(John 15:1-11)

STAND-ALONE
sermon



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[1] “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.

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[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, 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.

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[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.

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[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.

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

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1. Who is God?
2. How do I have an ongoing relationship (or communion) with God?
3. Why does God want me to have communion with Him?

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Isaiah 5:1-2

[1] Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

[2] He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

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“Israel became a false and wild vine through idolatry and wickedness.” - D.A. Carson

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“The truth is that John is speaking of the union of believers with Christ, apart from whom they can do nothing. This union, originating in his initiative and sealed by his death on their behalf, is completed by the believers’ responsive love and obedience, and is the essence of Christianity.” - Barrett

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- A fruitful branch that abides is pruned
- A fruitful branch that abides prays with power because of the Word within
- A fruitful branch abides in God's love

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“The Father takes the knife to our bad habits and assails our prayerlessness by giving us things to pray about. The Father applies the pruning knife to our priorities and values, and stripes away relationships that would hinder faith.” - Richard Phillips

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"If you abide in Christ in daily fellowship, it will not be difficult to pray aright, for He has promised to abide in those who abide in Him; and the sap of the Holy Ghost securing for you fellowship with your unseen Lord, will produce in you, as fruit, desires and petitions similar to those which He unceasingly presents to His Father." - F.B. Meyer

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John 15:12

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

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“If obedience is the condition of continually remaining in Jesus’ love, it is no less important to remember that . . . our love for Jesus is the wellspring of our obedience to him, as our obedience is the demonstration of the reality of that love.” - D. A. Carson

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Philippian 2:7-8

[7] emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

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Hebrews 12:2

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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