

Living Out the Union

August 7th 2016

John 15:1-9

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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. **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. **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.



Outline

- An Organic Union
- Fruitful Living
- Painful Pruning
- Powerful Prayer

Vineyard Imagery

- Jesus : the True Vine
- The Father God: the Vinedresser
- Disciples: Branches

branches



vine

Abide

- Abide in Christ, who is the true Vine from where we get our vital supply of nutrients for growth
- Abide in His word that means we take root in Christ by faith.
- Abide in Christ's love; the motivating force behind our fruit bearing is the love of Christ.

Hosea 10:1-2

1 Israel is a luxuriant vine
 that yields its fruit.

The more his fruit increased,
 the more altars he built;
as his country improved,
 he improved his pillars.

2

Their heart is false;
 now they must bear their guilt.

The Lord[a] will break down their altars
 and destroy their pillars.

I am the True Vine....

Thus, the most natural understanding of John 15:1 is that Jesus embodies Israel's calling to be the true vine. And in claiming to be the true vine, Jesus claims to be in the line of David, the long-awaited Messiah, the true Israel.

C. John Collins, OT Professor at Covenant Theological Seminary

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.

L J P P K G F G S

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

When we abide in the word of Christ we abide in the life giving Eternal Word of God.

J.C. Ryle: Union between Vine and the Branches

The union between the branch of a vine and the main stem, is the closest that can be conceived. It is the whole secret of the branch's life, strength, vigor, beauty, and fertility. Separate from the parent stem, it has no life of its own. The sap and juice that flow from the stem are the origin and maintaining power of all its leaves, buds, blossoms, and fruit. Cut off from the stem, it must soon wither and die.

To be in the vine, as we have seen, is to be in Jesus—more specifically, to be counted among that people whom Jesus represents: true Israel. When we become part of the church, we join a web of relationships with other members, all of whom are connected to Christ. The lives of the members are woven together by the invisible bond of the Holy Spirit. We all depend on one another. And, generally speaking, the life of Christ comes to us mediated through other Christians. To abide in Christ is to use our connection to other Christians as the vehicle by which Christ ministers life to us—and each of us is a vehicle of Christ's life to others.

C. John Collins

Our Union with Christ

The New Testament idea of being united to Christ through faith means we are in Christ, the vine, so whatever is true for Jesus is true for us, the branches.

“Because He lives, they shall live also.”

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.

‘Fruit’

There has been considerable dispute over the nature of the ‘fruit’ that is envisaged: the fruit, we are told, is obedience, or new converts, or love, or Christian character. These interpretations are reductionistic....

..this fruit is the outcome of persevering dependence on the vine, driven by faith, embracing all of the believer’s life and the product of his witness. *D. A. Carson*

Disciple of Christ

1. One who is a child of God through new birth by the Spirit.
2. He or she is a branch rooted in Christ by faith.
3. She continues to abide in Christ as a learner under the Lordship of Christ
4. A disciple is a disciple-maker who reproduces more disciples who will make disciples (2 Tim.2:2, Matt.28:18-20)
5. A disciple values nothing more highly than the name of God glorified by him or her (John Calvin).

An Unexpected Journey

*The Addie Lee Silver Story:
Where Faith and Medicine Meet*



As told to Linda M. Davidson
With Foreword by Dr. Diane Poythress

“...and the Truth Will Set You Free.”

John 8:32

“I find that whenever I am going through a very uncomfortable trial, with great suffering, its effect, its effect is to stop me dead in my tracks. I am suddenly aware that God wants my immediate attention. It gives me a sense of urgency, and I want/need to clear my heart and mind anything that could come between me and my Heavenly Father. Usually it’s because either: (1) I’m mad at someone; (2) I have neglected to forgive someone; or (3) I have been hurt. In the middle of my prayer, I sense that I am hanging on to an unforgiving spirit. I need to let go; I need to surrender. That desire becomes much stronger when I am in the midst of suffering. It is a good thing; my first impulse is always to my stubborn will, but pain quickly puts my spirit into sharp focus. I know instantly exactly what I need to do.”

As The Father has love me, so have I
loved you. Abide in my love

_____ you are my beloved brother,
I am well pleased with you!

_____ you are my beloved sister,
I am well pleased with you!