

## Branches of the True Vine John 15:1–17

### SERMON OUTLINE

How will I produce fruit that remains? By staying connected to Jesus Christ.

#### I. Abide in Christ (vv. 1–8)

##### A. Why abide in Christ?

1. The vinedresser has the right to expect fruit
2. If we don't abide, we cannot bear fruit
3. We are expected to produce:
  - a) The fruit of faith
  - b) The fruit of obedience
  - c) The fruit of evangelism and witness
  - d) The fruit of praise

##### B. What happens if I don't stay connected to the vine?

1. Those who do not remain will be judged
2. Those who do remain will be pruned

##### C. How can I abide in Christ?

1. We must pay attention to the Word of Christ
2. We must persevere in prayer

#### II. Abide in Christ's love (vv. 9–17)

- A. Layer 1: The Father's love for the Son
- B. Layer 2: The Son's sacrificial love for His friends
- C. Layer 3: Our obedience to the Son in loving one another

### APPLICATIONS

- Remind yourself of the gospel
- Leverage your free time for growth
  - Read or listen to the Bible
  - Memorize Scripture
  - Read good books on theology
  - Listen to ICBC's Spotify playlist
- Don't give up on community
- Go find someone to serve or encourage

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has this time of social distancing affected your discipleship? Are you making good use of your time?
2. Can you think of someone in the Bible God allowed to suffer for the sake of his or her growth?
3. Can you think of a time when God used suffering in your life to prune you?
4. Can you think of some prayers that God has recently answered in your life?
5. How do you think God can (or will) use this pandemic for His glory and our good?

### OTHER QUESTIONS THAT MAY HELP

1. What does this text tell us about God?
2. What does this text tell us about man?
3. What should I put on or put off in my thinking?
4. What should I put on or put off in my doing?

### LAST WEEK'S HOMEWORK

1. Begin to develop a reflex to pray before you worry.
2. Block parties are POSTPONED until beginning of summer.

### HOMEWORK

1. Make a practical plan/commitment to leverage your free time for growth. Look at the list to the left for ideas.
2. Find a way to connect with people in your group to encourage them this week.