

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 5/17/2020

John 15: 1-11

Reintroducing Jesus: The Seven I Am Statements

by Drew Hunter

*I am the True Vine*

### Overview

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Real Christianity involves an organic, vital connection between Jesus and his people. Being a disciple of Jesus is about more than learning things *about* Jesus. It's also about more than doing things *for* Jesus. It's about being experientially connected *to* Jesus. It's about being dependent *on* Jesus. Jesus is saying: I'm the source. Get grafted in me, and then remain in me, moment-by-moment. Jesus is the vine, the father is the vinedresser (or gardener), and we are the branches.

1. The Vine Jesus is the true Israel, the true people of God. He came to live the life that Israel and all of us have failed to live. He came to be the one true vine that bears good fruit.
2. The Gardener The Father removes the dead branches to clean the plant up and cuts down the fruitful or blossoming stems so that they can become even more fruitful.
3. The Branches A branch needs to have a deep, ongoing, dependent connection to the vine. Jesus uses this image to invite us to "abide", which means to remain. What

### Quotations

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*"Let's embrace this hard season as a possible expression of God's pruning of us as a church. This is hard, and will continue to be. But how might God be leading us into a new normal, that is even more fruitful after this?"*

Drew Hunter

### Understanding & Application

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1. What do you find yourself "abiding in" during this time of quarantine that has disrupted our regular rhythms? Are there ways these supports are falling short in yielding joy, peace, or purpose?
  2. How do you express your dependency on Jesus in the practical moment-to-moment realities of your life?
  3. Describe a time when you were being fruitful and experienced the pruning work of the Father which in the end produced more fruit in your life? Are you in one of these times currently?
  4. How does Jesus say the Father will determine which branches he will throw away? How could you recognize this kind of person?
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5. Drew suggested that we could hit the reset button and start building new, life-giving habits into our lives during this pandemic? What comes to your mind in terms of a reset?

