

## **I Am the True Vine**

### **John 15:1-8**

John 15:1-8 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

**Question 1: Jesus uses the entire image of the grapevine of how it's cared for, how it grows, and what it yields and compares it to our personal relationship with God. What sticks out to you from this passage?**

- Are you producing fruit?

Ezekiel 15:2-5 "Son of man, how does a grapevine compare to a tree? Is a vine's wood as useful as the wood of a tree? Can its wood be used for making things, like pegs to hang up pots and pans? No, it can only be used for fuel, and even as fuel, it burns too quickly. Vines are useless both before and after being put into the fire!"

Colossians 1:6 "This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace."

Romans 7:4 "So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God."

Philippians 1:20-22 "And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better."

**Question 2: The main purpose of being a branch is producing fruit. If we don't produce fruit, then we are in a sense, useless or without purpose. Where has the fruit of God been evident in your life? I know that talking about ourselves or our own spiritual growth can be difficult (we don't want to be prideful). However, this is an opportunity to self-reflect and see where**

**you are bearing spiritual fruit.**

- Are you open to His pruning?

Matthew 3:10 "Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

**Question 3: Pruning can be a difficult process where God is teaching us or disciplining us or allowing us to go through a trial (Hebrews 12:5-7). What is or has God been trying to teach you or show you lately?**

**Question 4: The goal of pruning is that we would be ready to be fruitful again. What area of your life do you think God is trying to sharpen you in? What steps have you taken to be sharpened or pruned in your spiritual life?**

- Are you remaining in the vine?

John 15:4 "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me."

1 John 3:24 "Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us."

**Question 5: What does it mean to remain in the vine? What does your spiritual life look like in this season of your life?**

- Are you connected to the vine?

Romans 6:4-5 "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was."

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Galatians 3:27 "And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes."

Titus 3:5-6 "He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured

out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

John 3:3-5 “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.”

**Question 6: How did you first come to Jesus? What does your conversion story look like and are you sharing it with others?**