



September 11, 2016

Ps Ken Young

John 15:1-8 *"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 bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."*

- Jesus is the vine
- God is the vine grower
- True believers are the branches
- As branches we are spiritually alive, but only grow if we are connected to the true vine – Jesus
- God's desire as the husbandman, is for his branches to produce fruit

1. God Does the Pruning – vs 2

Two aspects:

- a. Branch that does not bear fruit
- b. Branch that *does* bear fruit

How about the branch that IS bearing fruit? It is pruned to! What does this mean? God allows things in your life (trials, tests, and the like)

2. Fruit is to be Expected – vs 5

What is meant by FRUIT in our text? *"that it may bear more fruit."* Vs.2

Galatians 5:22 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control."*

3. True Branches Abide In His Love – vs 6, 9

Note: To "abide" simply means to remain, be present, to endure.

- We do not struggle to produce fruit
- Then to emphasize this point, we are reminded:

John 15:5 *“for without Me you can do nothing”*

We must grasp this truth. We cannot conform to His image, we cannot produce His likeness, unless we simply abide in the vine.

Questions:

1. Recall times in your life when you felt God was “pruning” – allowing trials to come into your life. Were the trials a result of being chastised by God or were you a vine that was producing “fruit?”
2. How has your life changed since you've known the Lord? Have you and others seen the fruit of the Spirit in your life consistently? What are some areas you know the Lord needs to work on so you will produce more fruit for Him?
3. What does it mean to you to “abide” in Him? Can you imagine living without abiding in Him any more?

Prayer: “Dear Father, thank you for your great salvation through Jesus. Thank You for producing fruit through my life. I know I am not everything I would like to be, but I thank you that I am not the same person I was before You saved me. Today, I yield my life anew to You and give you complete permission to “prune” me as You deem best so I may produce more fruit for You. Thank You for loving me and continuing the good work You began. Give me the strength to endure to the end in faith. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen!”