

Jesus is the True Vine - John 15:1-11 (NRSV)

John 15:1-11 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*** ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Giving honor to God, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the children of God. Good morning to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As we look at today's text, John 15:1-11, we learn the importance of being connected to Christ. He is the True Vine and God (The Father) is the Vine Grower. Galatians 3:26 teach us "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through **faith**. As many of you as were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

I once asked a gentleman the Question, "How are You Doing?" His reply was that he was maintaining!!! My thought was maintaining what... We should always strive to do better, to be better, and to help somebody along the way. The reality is that there are many who are waiting for their ship to come in; but they never sent their ship out. Or they are waiting for their crop to come in, but they never sent their crop out. It allows us to understand that according to the Word of God in(Genesis 8:22), "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." In other words, if you want more love, you've got to sow more seeds of love. If you want more financial blessings, you've got to sow some seed, so that in due season, you will reap a bountiful harvest.

Again, according to the text... **John 15**, "I am the True Vine, and my Father is the Vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. (Cut's it Back) ***Pruning*** removes dead and dying branches and stubs, allowing

room for new growth and protecting you from damage. Hallelujah!..for it also deters pest and animal infestation and promotes the plant's natural shape and healthy growth. Can you testify about the areas in your life where God has removed some things so that your anointed growth can take place? I'm a witness beloved, that God will remove some circumstances, situations, and so-called friends, at just the right time in your life, to prepare you for a breakthrough. You may think you've been cut-back, cut-off, or even left all alone, but God is pruning you so you can grow to the next level of anointing and blessing. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. (You're growing in Sunday Worship, Bible Study, Personal Study, and Prayer) ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. (Relationship – It's more than just on Sunday Morning-When You see me and I see you. We ought to see Christ in "us".) The spirit bears witness of itself, Just 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. (Listen; I realized that someone plants tomatoes. The tomato plant will not produce Huge tomatoes on the 1st harvest. The reason is because if the tomato is too big, the whole vine will fall over and wither down. JESUS is the True Vine and God is dressing the Vine. So, it is the mind of God to make sure that we have enough water, sun, nourishment, love, power, etc. Thank God that He is in complete control.) Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing.(Producing is a Process.) ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (Matthew 6:33 teach us "But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.") Question: Does the seed ever say "Why is all of this dirt being thrown on me? (No, because, the dirt is only a part of the process of growing.) Does the seed ever say, "Why is all of this water being poured on me?" (No, because, the water is only a part of the process of growing.) Does the seed ever say "Why am I being delayed temporarily and being cut back? (No, because Baby, temporary delay and being cut back is only a part of the process of my growing to the next level of my anointing.) My brother and my sister shout "It's only a part of the process!!! - I've been cut back, but Gooooood God Almighty! I haven't been cut off! *** You've gone through

some trials in life. (The enemy meant it for bad; but I'm So Glad, that God!!!!!!..... meant it for your Good. He's still working on you. The promotion is on the way. The relationship is getting better. You can still stand on the Word of God... and Sow the Right Seed. God hasn't cut you off; He's only cut you back. He's pruning you; because you're getting ready to expand to a new level of anointing. A new level of blessing. You've been praying and the Lord is still working it out. Tell somebody, "He is a Healer and a Deliverer." 'O Yes He IS... You can't make me doubt Him; I know too much about Him.

Verse 8..... reads⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (In closing, this Joy that I have the World didn't Give it to Me & The World Can't take it away).

In closing, Christ was our perfect example. He lived on this earth and we know that they hung Him high and they stretched Him Wide; He Gave Up the Ghost and He died. He died, 'O Yeah he died. But the other part of the Gospel Message is that He didn't stay in the grave. He got up with all power in His hand. He became the first born of a new creation. If a \$100 bill gets dirt on it; how much is it worth? If it gets water on it; how much is it worth? Correct, it's still worth \$100. Beloved; You are priceless. In fact, John 3:16 says "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not perish but have Eternal Life." (New Living Translation) If you have not received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; today is the Day of Salvation. I repeat these words: Romans 10:9 states "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Lord, I come to you just as I am. Cleanse my heart, mend me back together. I have confessed with my mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and I believe in my heart that God hath raised Him from the dead. I'm Saved. I'm Free. I'm Redeemed. Amen.