



## I AM the True Vine

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### NOTES FROM THE TALK

Bible: John 15: 1-27

#### INTRODUCTION

Context is everything

- It's the day before Jesus was crucified.
- The disciples have been shocked by four things.
- It's evening outside the Temple.

#### WHAT'S WHAT?

The Vine

The Gardener

The Branches

The Fruit

The Fire

#### SO WHAT?

Remaining/abiding in Christ?

If you "abide in Christ" you will:

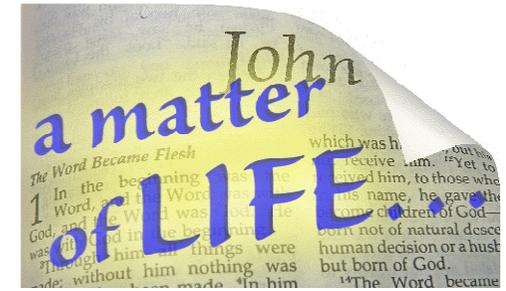
1. Be fruitful
2. Be joyful
3. Be loving
4. Be friends not servants

John 15:5

Jesus said. "Apart from me you can do nothing."

**Something important to remember from Jesus' words:**

**You, and this church, can achieve nothing of lasting value if we don't remain joined to Jesus.**



## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's a bit unrealistic for a small group to do everything - **so feel free to be selective!**

### DISCUSSION

1. Jesus talked about being joined to Him, as the Vine, the day before he was crucified. He had already told them that He was leaving them. How would His disciples "abide in Him"?
2. How can we "abide (remain) in Christ" today?
3. If we can do nothing without Jesus (John 15.4), how do we make sure that what we do in life and for God, is done "joined to the vine" and by "remaining in Christ"? What do Jesus' words about this tell us?
4. What is the fruit that Jesus wants His disciples to bear? Does Galatians 5: 22-25 answer this question sufficiently? Are there any links that you can see between John 15 and Galatians 5?
5. Jesus often told stories and gave teaching based on everyday life in Israel and what the people could see. Here He used a vine. If Jesus was present in the flesh today, teaching and telling stories, what contemporary examples do you think He might use instead of the vine? Use your imagination to explore some ideas! Mobile phone networks...?

Remember that no illustration is perfect and will break down at some point!

### PRAYER

Share ways that you have both felt "joined to the vine" and also ways that you have experienced "pruning". What kind of experience are you going through now? Use this conversation together as a basis of prayer for one another.

## MORE TO CONSIDER: ABIDING IN CHRIST

Many years ago Andrew Murray wrote what has become a Christian classic, called "Abide in Christ".

Here is how his book begins:

**"Come unto me."-MATT.11:28**

**"Abide in me."-JOHN 15:4**

**IT IS to you who have heard and hearkened to the call, "Come unto me," that this new invitation comes, "Abide in me." The message comes from the same loving Saviour. You doubtless have never repented having come at His call. You experienced that His word was truth; all His promises He fulfilled; He made you partakers of the blessings and the joy of His love. Was not His welcome most hearty, His pardon full and free, His love most sweet and precious? You more than once, at your first coming to Him, had reason to say, "The half was not told me."**

**And yet you have had to complain of disappointment: as time went on, your expectations were not realized. The blessings you once enjoyed were lost; the love and joy of your first meeting with your Saviour, instead of deepening, have become faint and feeble. And often you have wondered what the reason could be, that with such a Saviour, so mighty and so loving, your experience of salvation should not have been a fuller one. The answer is very simple....**

To find out the answer you can read the whole book online as a pdf.

Here's the link:

<http://www.christlion.com/documents/Abide%20in%20Christ%20-%20andrew%20Murray.pdf>