

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

August 21, 2022

## I AM the True Vine (John 15:1-11)

We finish our series on the seven great "I AM" statements in the gospel of John today by looking at "I AM the True Vine" from **John 15:1-11**. This statement comes during the discourse in John 13-16 when Jesus is with His disciples for the last supper.

### The Relationships of the Disciples

The discourse in Chapter 15 is concerning three relationships that involve the disciples:

- (1) **Their relationship with the Son (1-11)**
- (2) **Their relationship with one another (12-17)**
- (3) **Their relationship with the world (18-27)**

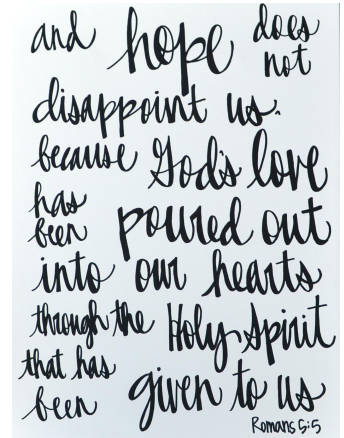
### Introductions

**Vine Metaphor** - This is likely a grapevine. In the time of Jesus, a great golden vine was the National Emblem of Israel. According to Josephus, this emblem was on the entrance to Herod's temple. In the Old Testament, Israel is pictured as being a vine or a vineyard (**Ps 80:8-9; Isa 5:1-2, 7; Jer 2:21**).

While I usually think that chapters 13-16 all occurred in the upper room, it is possible they had already left (**14:31**) and were in front of the temple on their way to the Mount of Olives (**18:1**).

**The True Vine (1)** - This is the Christ. Likely pulling from the Old Testament imagery of the vine, Jesus is signifying there is a single, genuine stock and branches must be connected to the true vine to be part of this stock. Jesus is the true Israel, the seed of Abraham through whom all the prophecies were to be fulfilled (**Gen 12:1-3; Gal 3:7-9**). This "True Vine" metaphor is a similar concept to the "One Body" metaphor used by Paul in **1 Cor 12:12-19**.

**The Vinedresser (1-2)** - The Father is the "vinedresser". The word "vinedresser" in verse 1 is generic and literally means "farmer". The context of the "vine" metaphor tells us the type of farmer Jesus is referencing. Verse 2 describes two activities that are completed by the farmer: **(1) The removal of dead branches**, and **(2) The trimming / pruning of live branches**. Success in raising any crop depends largely on the skill of the farmer or gardener. He



and hope does not disappoint us. because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us  
Romans 5:5

*"Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me"*

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IF WE HIDE AWAY OUR SINS  
AND COVER OUR TRANSGRESSIONS UP  
AND AVOID THE PLACE OF CONFESSION,  
TO ALLOW IN THE LIGHT OF HIS LOVE  
TO REVEAL TO US OUR GREAT NEED  
OF FORGIVENESS FROM THE LORD  
THEN IN OUR WAYS WE WON'T PROSPER  
OR KNOW HIS MERCY AT ALL  
BUT WHEN WE CONFESS OUR SINS  
FORSAKING WHAT IS NOT RIGHT  
WE WILL SURELY OBTAIN GOD'S MERCY  
AND WALK IN IT ALL OUR LIVES

tends it, waters it, and endeavors to protect it and cultivate it so that it will produce its maximum yield.

**Branches (5)** - The disciples of Christ. There are many branches and one true vine. Back to 1 Cor 12, these are like “members” of the “one body”.

**How do we know if we are alive and connected to the True Vine?**

**(1) Are we keeping His commandments? (7, 9-10)** - It is a consistent message that loving or knowing Christ is demonstrated by keeping His commandments (**1 Jn 2:3-6; 3:24**). Jesus says the same thing to His disciples here, just like he did in chapter 14 (**Jn 14:15, 21, 23-24**).

**(2) Are we bearing fruit? (4-5, 8)** - There is no concept anywhere of a disciple who does not bear fruit (**Mt 7:15-20; 13:8, 23**). Jesus specifically says to “bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples” (**8**). Are we helping those in need? Are we planting the seed of the Gospel? Are we bringing others to Christ?

**What happens if we are a branch that does not bear fruit? (2, 6)**

This is not a happy thing to think about, but it is a reality that we should take as a dire warning. If we do not bear fruit, we will be cut off and burned. This is literally life or death (**Mt 7:15-20; Rom 11:17-24**).

**What are some benefits of being connected to the True Vine?**

**(1) We are Clean (3; Jn 13:10; 2 Tim 3:14-17; Heb 4:11-13)** - The means by which cleaning is done is the Word of God. The Word condemns sin; it inspires holiness; it promotes growth.

**(2) Power of Prayer (7)** - Refers back to the instruction in the preceding chapter (**John 14:14**). He was not promising to gratify every chance whim. But as long as the believer is seeking the Lord’s will in his life, Jesus will grant every request that will help accomplish this end.

**(3) Fullness of Joy (11)** - True Joy is only found in the True Vine

**PRAYER LIST**

- **Faye Waller** has moved to Oak Point Assisted Living 403 S. Church St Adams TN 37010
- **Maria Hunter Harrington**, a friend of the Billingsleys, has breast cancer
- **Tommy Shearer**, who spoke here in June, lost a leg in a motorcycle accident
- **Doug Demonbreun** is still dealing with pain
- **Forshia Pennington, Carolyn Pennington and Judy Grissom**, relatives of the Reeds, have breast cancer. **Vicki Reed** has been diagnosed with Myeloma as well
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- Continue to pray for: families in **Uvalde, Texas** and those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kristine Garrett, Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

**SERVING TODAY (August 21, 2022)**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Read:** J. Gupton  
**Prayer:** E. Walker

**WORSHIP**

**Read:** J. Walker  
**Wait On Table:** C. Baker  
**Serve:** D. Billingsley, J. Demonbreun  
**Prayer:** J. Baker