



Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ!

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Learn

Take time to read this passage. This message helps us understand Jesus' importance and the need for our ongoing walk with Him:

Jesus said in John 15, "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 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. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 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.

5 "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. 6 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. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

9 "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! 12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. 16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Live

Have you ever tried to live a good life on your own without Jesus?



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Consider the characters: Jesus is the “grapevine,” God the Father is the “Gardener,” and Christians are the branches that grow off the grapevine and produce fruit. As the Gardener, God is interested in growth. Useless branches are severed; fruitful branches are “pruned and purified.” Consider:

Hebrews 12:10-11: “For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.”

How is God “pruning and purifying” you today? How is God shaping you to become more like Jesus?

Love

Jesus not only commanded love, he also lived it! There is no hypocrisy in Jesus. Love is the action God is desiring from our lives. Describe what love really looks like (consider verses 13-14).

Lead

What do verses 15-17 say about Jesus’ leadership?

What does it mean to ask for things in Jesus’ name? We know this does not mean God is bound to fulfill our Christmas wish list if we invoke the right words. What is the process of aligning our will to God’s so that our prayers are in line with what God desires to do on earth?

Pray!

Ask God for something significant. Perhaps it is spiritual growth in your life or the salvation of someone you love. And be ready; the Gardener may cause the fruit to grow—through you!