

## **John 15:1-11**

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### I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 15:1-11.
- B. The section opens after the upper room discourse.

### II. Jesus calls Himself the true vine.

- A. It is difficult to tell the difference between the vine and the branches—Jesus calls believers the branches.
- B. Believers are so integrally a part of Jesus' life that they are like vines and branches—we intertwined with Christ. (I Corinthians 12)

### III. The branches.

- A. Jesus "takes out" the branches not bearing fruit.
  - 1. This is the same word Jesus uses when He commands others to take away the stone from the tomb of Lazarus.
  - 2. The branch is removed that does not bear fruit.
- B. Jesus cleanses every branch that bears fruit.
  - 1. Fruit bearing consists of righteousness and godly character, not soul winning. (Isaiah 5)
  - 2. There is a connection between soul winning and good character, though.
  - 3. There must be a relationship with Jesus to bear fruit.
- C. Fruit will only produce on vines that have been pruned—the Lord prunes us so that our character will be better.

### IV. The secret of living is abiding in Jesus and Jesus abiding in you.

- A. Abiding means staying by an act of one's will.
- B. To remain in Jesus is to continue to obey what He says.
- C. One must also recognize that one cannot do anything without relying upon God.
  - 1. Jesus turns an ordinary life into an extraordinary life.
  - 2. One cannot fulfill God's will on his own power.

V. The results of the fruitful and fruitless lives.

A. The fruitless life.

1. This man is cast forth and thrown into the fire to be burned.
2. This is not the act of a moment, but the process of a lifetime.
3. This is what God will do to the person who has professed to be a Christian, but in his heart yields no obedience to God's word.
4. This person will wither—his joy will disappear.
5. Judas is an example of this.

B. The fruitful life.

1. The sign of this is a life of answered prayer.
2. The second mark is a life of demonstrated discipleship.
3. The third mark is abiding in Jesus' love and commandments.
  - a. We do not typically combine love and commandment.
  - b. Obedience will flow out of a sense of love.
4. The fourth mark is joy.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is the image of Jesus as the vine and believers as branches so effective? Explain.

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2. What is the secret of living an effective Christian life? How can you make this a part of your life every day?

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3. How have you seen the fruitful life lived out by others? Who has been an outstanding example of this for you?

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