

The Vine and Its Fruit

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I. Introduction. Text: John 15:1-11.

II. Jesus explains Himself as the vine.

A. He contrasts Himself with Israel in this way. (Psalm 80, Isaiah 5)

B. Israel is a picture of the true vine—Jesus is the real one that produces fruit.

III. Branches represent believers.

A. There are two kinds—one that produces fruit and one that does not.

B. The branch that does not produce fruit the Father removes. From time to time, certain people must be removed from the church.

C. The Father also cleans the fruit bearing branches.

1. God drastically cuts back the experiences of our lives in order to help believers bear more fruit.

2. The Word of God corrects us, which can be a painful process.

3. One must be reminded that this pruning is the work of a loving Father.

IV. The fruit God is expecting from us is justice and righteousness, which is Christ-likeness.

A. This includes love, joy and peace, which is the fruit of the Spirit.

B. This comes from the process of the Spirit's work in a person.

V. The process of fruit bearing is abiding in Jesus.

A. To abide is to remain.

B. To become Christ-like, one must discipline himself.

C. Discipline is necessary but so is God's presence.

VI. Evidences of fruit.

A. Answered prayer according to the promises.

B. A life of witness.

C. Abiding in the love of Jesus. The way to feel worthwhile is to realize that God loves you.

D. The joy of being used by God.

Application questions:

1. Explain the symbolism of the vine and the branches metaphor.

2. What reasons do the believers often have to cut things out of their lives in order to be effective?

3. Who has been a model for you for bearing fruit? In which of the evidences have they shown particular strength?
