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Abiding in Christ John 15:1-8

I. Jesus is the Vine (v. 1a)

A. Israel was the _____ vine [Psa. 80:8; Jer. 2:21;
Ezek. 19:12; Isa. 5:1-5]

B. Jesus is the _____ vine (v. 1a, 5a)
[Heb. 9:24; 1 Jn. 5:20; Rev. 3:7; 19:11]

II. God is the Vinedresser (v. 1b) [Matt. 21:33-43]

III. Individuals in the Visible Church are the Branches (vv. 2-8)

A. Branches that bear no fruit (v. 2a, 6)

1. These branches get _____ away (v. 2a)
[Matt. 15:13; Matt. 13:12]
2. These branches are _____ bearing fruit because
they are not abiding (v. 6a) [Matt. 7:15-20]
3. These branches wither, are gathered, and are thrown into the
_____ (v. 6b) [Matt. 13:40-42]

B. Branches that bear fruit (v. 2b-5, 7-8)

1. These branches will be _____ (v. 2b)
[1 Pet. 1:6-7; Rom. 5:3-4; Jms. 1:2-4]
2. These branches must be _____ abiding in
the vine (vv. 3-5) [Jn. 13:10; Col. 1:6, 21-23]
3. These branches prove to be faithful and _____
(vv. 7-8) [Jn. 14:13; Matt. 5:16; Phil. 1:11; Gal. 5:22-23]

TAKE HOME

- Why is it so important that we realize that Jesus is the **True** Vine?
- What is God's job as the Divine **Vinedresser**?
- Why do fruit-bearing branches need to be **pruned**? What does that look like in your life?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placritachurch.com.

1. Read John 15:1. Who was the original vine that was supposed to represent and point people to God? What happened to this vine? (Psa. 80:8; Jer. 2:21; Ezek. 19:12; Isa. 5:1-5)

2. Who is the true vine? Read Heb. 9:24; 1 Jn. 5:20; Rev. 3:7; 19:11. What descriptions of the true vine do we see in these passages?

3. Read Matthew 21:33-43. What are some things we learn about the Divine Vinedresser in this parable?

4. Read John 15:2, 6. What happens to the branches that do not bear fruit? (Matt. 15:13; 13:12; 13:40-42)

5. Read Matthew 7:15-20. What is Jesus teaching in this passage? How is this similar than John 15:1-8? How is it different?

6. Read John 15:2. What is the purpose of pruning? How does this happen? How does 1 Pet. 1:6-7; Rom. 5:3-4; Jms. 1:2-4 give further insight on pruning?

7. Read John 15:3-5. What happens when we do abide in Christ? Do we need to do this continually? Why or why not? (Jn. 13:10; Col. 1:6, 21-23)

8. Read John 15:7-8. What do these verses teach us? How do you show that you are a disciple? What does that look like for you on a daily basis? (Jn. 14:13; Matt. 5:16; Phil. 1:11; Gal. 5:22-23)

9. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? How will you live differently this week based on what you have learned from this passage?

“The meaning of this language is clear and plain. Just as the vine-dresser prunes and cuts back the branches of a fruitful vine, in order to make them more fruitful, so does God purify and sanctify believers by the circumstances of life in which He places them.”

- J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on John*