

LOVED BY GOD TO ABIDE

John 15:1-17

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, I am, true vine, vine, Father, vinedresser, branch, bear fruit, fruit, prunes, more fruit, clean, word, spoken, abide, thrown away, withers, fire, burned, ask, glorified, prove, disciples, loved, abide in my love, joy, my joy, your joy, full, commandment, love one another, greater love, lay down life, friends, servants, master, heard, made known, did not choose, chose, chosen, appointed

Introduction

"I am the true vine." This is the final "I Am" statement recorded in the Gospel of John. The disciples were troubled, knowing that Jesus was leaving. What would it look like to follow Jesus after his departure? Jesus explains that he is the true vine, and his followers are the branches. The imagery of the vine would have been familiar to the disciples because it hearkens back to Old Testament portrayals of Israel as God's vine, which he planted and tended. God's people were supposed to bear fruit, but instead of obeying God, they abandoned him to serve idols.

Friendship with Jesus transforms us. Our relationship to Jesus by faith means that as our love for God grows, we will keep his commandments and love others. True disciples bear fruit. Disciples are LOVED BY GOD TO ABIDE. Abiding in Jesus and his love enables effective prayer, love-fueled obedience, full joy, and sacrificial love.

Outline

It takes a true vine to provide a true salvation (v. 1).

The Father will use the pruning knife to remove what threatens your fruitfulness (v. 2).

Abiding is moment to moment, not week to week (vv. 4-5).

Abiding in Jesus:

- **Keeps us from judgment (v. 6).**
- **Makes prayer effective (v. 7).**
- **Glorifies the Father (v. 8).**
- **Fills you with joy (v. 11).**

Friendship with Jesus means you experience a love that transforms you (vv. 12-14).

Friendship with Jesus grows in his word (v. 15).

God chose to love you so that you could bear fruit and love others (vv. 16-17).

Application

Are you connected to Jesus by faith?

Where is the Father pruning you?

What kind of friendship do you have with Jesus?

Questions

1. What does spiritual fruit in the life of a Christian look like? (Romans 7:4; Hebrews 13:15; Philippians 1:11; Colossians 1:10; Galatians 5:22-23)
2. How can someone be connected to Jesus but not bear fruit? (John 15:2)
3. Are you "abiding" in Christ through his word, through obedience to his commands, through love, and through prayer? Which one is lacking the most right now? What's your next step?
4. What does friendship with Jesus look like for you right now? What is one way you should be a better friend to him?
5. How is the Bible Jesus' self-disclosure? (John 15:15) How should that change the way we think of the Scripture?