

## VINE AND BRANCHES ~ JOHN 15:1-17

→ Scripture John 15:1-8

→ Introduction (3 pictures I will cue you)

### THE VINE AND THE GARDENER ~ John 15:1-8

[1] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2] He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. [3] You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. [4] Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

#### **To REMAIN IN CHRIST...** (the Vine)

- ACCEPTING Jesus Christ as Savior
- Staying CONNECTED and DEPENDENT on Him

[5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

#### **JESUS SAID:** (in the first 4 verses)

- I AM the VINE
- you are the BRANCHES
- remain in Me to bear much FRUIT
- apart from Me you can DO NOTHING

[6] If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [7] If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

#### **REMAINING IN VINE MEANS TO STAY...**

- Connected to the Vine
- Dependent on the Vine

[8] This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

#### **THE ESSENTIAL IDEA OF FRUIT IS THAT IT IS THE...**

- SILENT
- NATURAL
- RESTFUL

...RESULT OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE (our daily walk with Jesus Christ)

## APPLICATION

→ Pruning is trimming back all parts of the branch that are not Essential to Growing Fruit

→ Discipline is to Train, Educate, and Correct to cause Growth (Fruitfulness)

**Hebrews 12:7-11** (NIV) [7] Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? [8] If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. [9] Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! [10] Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

## GENERATE LASTING FRUIT ~ John 15:9-17

[9] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [10] If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. [17] This is my command: Love each other.

## APPLICATION

## TAKE AWAY ??

### ARE WE STUMBLING BLOCKS OR STEPPING STONES?

- **Stumbling Block** - causes others to trip and fall
- **Stepping Stone** - helps others get where they're going

### THE QUESTION IS ARE WE...

- Connected - hanging around Jesus?
- Dependent - seeking His help and strength at all times?