

I Am the Vine John 15:1-12

Introduction:

By making this statement in John 15 (“I am the vine”), Jesus is telling us three important things. 1) It is our purpose in this life to bear good fruit. 2) We cannot bear this fruit alone. And 3) Jesus shows us how important it is to “abide” in Him.

I. Our purpose in this life is to bear fruit (15:2).

- A. Jesus goes on to say that if we abide in Him we bear much fruit (15:5).
 - 1. To “bear fruit” means that we will produce for the kingdom of God.
 - 2. In fact, God is glorified when we “bear much fruit” (15:8).
 - 3. Bearing fruit is something that God expects us to do.
 - 4. In fact, notice again that Jesus says that if we bear fruit, we will be pruned so that we can bear more fruit.
 - a. In Heb. 12:3-11, we read of the discipline of God.
 - b. The idea of this discipline is not to destroy us, but to teach us the “peaceable fruit of righteousness” (Heb. 12:11).
 - c. The same is true when we are “pruned” by God; it is done so that we can bear more fruit, not destroy us.
- B. There is a punishment for us if we do not bear fruit (15:2, 6).
 - 1. If we, as Christians, do not bear fruit, we have a great, eternal punishment.
 - 2. Mt. 3:10 - John the baptizer - And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
 - 3. Mt. 7:17-20 - In reference to false teachers - Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. {19} Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. {20} Therefore by their fruits you will know them.
- C. It is the gospel (or words of good news) of Christ that brings forth fruit (15:7).
 - 1. When we know what God wants from us through His word, and we obey that word, we can bear fruit.
 - 2. Mt. 13:23 - But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
 - 3. Col. 1:5-6 - In reference to the gospel of Christ - which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;
 - 4. That word is to “abide in” us (15:7).
 - 1. The children of Israel were commanded to write the word of God on their hearts.

- a. **Deut. 6:6** - And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
- b. This means that they know His word inside and out.
- 2. The same is expected of us today.
 - a. **II Cor. 3:3** - clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.
 - b. **Col. 3:16** - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The Christian is to “bear fruit!”

II. We, as Christians, cannot support (or “bear fruit”) in and of ourselves (15:4-5).

- A. We need help in this life.
 - 1. That help comes only from “the true vine.”
 - 2. We are dependent upon Christ.
 - 3. We must abide in Him
- B. We all have our place when it comes to God.
 - 1. Notice that even Jesus says that the “Father is the vinedresser” (15:1).
 - 2. **I Cor. 11:3** - But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
 - 3. Even when it comes to His church, we all have our place.
 - a. **I Cor. 12:12-20**
 - b. That place is not to be the head (for that is the place of Jesus), but we are to be faithful servants of God.
- C. Just as it is with the church, so it is with Christ.
 - 1. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches (15:5).
 - a. The branches do not support the vine, but rather the vine supports the branches.
 - b. **Rom. 11:16-18** - For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. {17} And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, {18} do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.
 - 2. **Jesus** is the vine, and **we** are the branches.
 - c. We submit to Him, not the other way around.
 - d. We cannot survive on our own; we need His support.

III. In this statement of Jesus, we see the importance of abiding in Him.

- A. When we abide in Him, we keep His commandments.
 - 1. If we do not abide in Him, we are cast out and burned (15:6).
 - 1. John 15:9-12
 - 2. I Jn. 3:24 - Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
- B. We fulfill His commands and abide in Him when we love one another.
 - 1. Mt. 22:37-40 - Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' {38} This is the first and great commandment. {39} And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' {40} On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
 - 2. Rom. 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. {9} For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." {10} Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - 3. I Jn. 4:12-13 - No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. {13} By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
 - 4. We must love one another in order to abide in Christ.
- C. When we abide in Christ, we do not continue to live in sin.
 - 1. I Jn. 3:6-9 - Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. {7} Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. {8} He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. {9} Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
 - 2. I Jn. 2:6 - He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
 - 3. It is important for us to abide in Christ.

Conclusion:

It is only in Christ that we can have salvation.