



I AM SERIES

JOHN 15 – “THE TRUE VINE”

INTRODUCTION:

The Gospel of John was written so that every person who encountered Jesus, the Son of God, would believe in Him and receive eternal life. John expressed who Jesus is in seven “**I AM**” statements.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ (warm or cold, intimate or distant, engaging or wanting, talkative or silent)? Is Jesus a key component in your life?
- What steps have you taken to connect with Jesus in the past? Other than having a quiet time, what can we do to deepen our relationship with Christ? How does it make you feel to know that the God who created you and died for you desires to have a close relationship with you?
- **JOHN 15:1-17** – Which words or phrases are repeated the most in this illustration? What did Jesus want his disciples to know about him, themselves and discipleship? What role does our Heavenly Father play in our ability to bear fruit? Which verse do you find the most refreshing and which of the verses is the most challenging for you to realistically do?
- **THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES:** What is the main idea of this word picture to you? If you have ever visited a vineyard, what insights can you give to our relationship with Christ? If Christ is the **TRUE VINE**, then potential to connect to **FALSE VINES** is possible for us. What are some of the **FALSE VINES** in our culture today? Our relationship with Christ is described as a conditional relationship. What are the conditions and what are the consequences?
- **FRUIT** – Which of the branches best describes your level of fruitfulness now? Which type of fruit did Jesus not specifically describe? What type do you think Jesus had in mind¹? What is the purpose of bearing fruit? What can you expect the **VINEDRESSER** to do if you don’t bear fruit? What can you expect if you do bear fruit? What does it mean “fruit that lasts/remains”?
- **LOVE** – What does it look like **to love one another as I loved you**? Our relationship with Christ impacts our relationships, while other people’s relationship with Christ impacts your relationship with them. How does this truth impact our ability to love and be loved by others? How did Jesus describe the interdependence between love and joy in our relationships?

NEXT STEP: Read John 15-20 this week. Spend 15 minutes a day reflecting upon who Christ is and what he endured for you. Ask the Lord to speak to you and to show you how to love better!

¹ Galatians 5:22-23, converts, words, etc.,

I Am the True Vine

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants,^a for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Footnotes:

- a. [John 15:15](#) Or *bondservants*, or *slaves* (for the contextual rendering of the Greek word *doulos*, see Preface); likewise for *servant* later in this verse and in verse [20](#)

English Standard Version (ESV)

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