

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Life in Christ | The True Vine

JOHN 15:1-4

*"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. ⁴**Abide 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.***

Triune Nature of God

Crucial to the Biblical doctrine of God is His Trinitarian nature. God is one in being or essence who exists eternally in three distinct coequal persons.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

This week we began a new series, *Life in Christ*, focusing on and digging into Jesus' teaching from John 15:1-11.

We begin in the first few verses where we look into who the true vine is, and what our lives look like when we are living in Him...or living attached to another vine.

Notes:

Notice first Jesus' use of the phrase in John 15:1, "I am." – a clear call back to Moses asking who was speaking to him at the burning bush. Who was it? The "I am." The Father is the great I am. Jesus is also the I am. The Father and Son are one. If we have seen the Son, we have seen the Father. Yet though the Father and Son are one, they are also unique – as is the Spirit.

He goes on, teaching that He is also the true vine.

It's interesting that Jesus refers to Himself as the true vine. The insinuation is that there are also false vines that we can connect to. For example:

1. Some are blatantly not the true vine (irreligion, or the rejection of religion/faith).
2. Some pretend to be the true vine (false religion).
3. Others are a living vine but produce no fruit (dead faith).

Three ways we can go through life:

1. **Life in Self (false vine).** Adam was the wild vine.

Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine? Jeremiah 2:21

- **Self-centered:** having concern for one's own welfare and interests before those of others. **Philippians 2:3-4**
- **Self-wisdom:** (*know-it-all*) We make ourselves god if we assert we know better than God/His Word (re: sex, dating, marriage, money, parenting, life, etc).

BEWARE

What happens when we are connected to the wrong vine?

We produce the wrong fruit!

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Ephesians 1:11

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

NOW WHAT?

We need to ask ourselves, "What fruit am I bearing?"

Life in Christ bears the fruits and walks in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Am I living as one who is connected to the true vine?

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. ¹⁴The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways.

Proverbs 14:12,14

- **Self-pleasing:** A picture of our current culture and takes place when there's no surrender to the lordship to the King of Kings –Jesus.

*In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. **Judges 21:25***

Fruit produced from plugging into this false vine produces a people/culture/government that does whatever it wants. Instead, we are called to obey Jesus' call in Matthew 16:24-26.

2. Life in Self-Righteousness. This vine begins with pride that leads to emptiness and then death.

- **Pharisaical (Pride):** An outward moral appearance, but for selfish reasons. Jesus' harshest words were reserved for this group. Ask ourselves, "Why do I do the "good" things I do? Is it motivated by Christ, or to impress others?" [Matthew 23:1-4](#)
- **Empty:** Can happen when we grow up in church but never make our faith our own, or when we allow life to steer us off course and are just going through the motions with our faith. [1 Samuel 12:21](#)
- **Dead:** This is total spiritual apathy. Beware! The vine is yelling, "Wake up! The vinedresser is coming!" [Revelation 3:1-3](#)

3. Life in Christ. When we're connected to the true vine we experience life as we were intended to! He is the true vine – our source of strength, nutrients, and the giver of life. Humility leads to fulfillment, purpose, and joy. We're gifted eternal life (Eph 1:11) and sealed with the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 1:13-14](#)).

- **Act Christ-like:** [1 John 2:6](#) –compels us to walk as Jesus walked.
- **Walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit:** [1 John 2:27](#) – the more we step into His gifts, the better they become!
- **Anticipate His return:** [1 John 2:28](#) –His promise gives us hope!