

## “Vine, Branches, Fruit And Love” (Teaching Sketch)

John 15:1-17

strength. <sup>»Nehemiah 8:10</sup> Jesus wanted the disciples to be filled with joy. <sup>John 15:11</sup> Jesus, in telling them these things, wanted both they and their joy to be complete in him, thus preparing them to bring those who would believe because of them to completeness.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Love As I Have

The recipe Jesus gave had a major component—love. He told them to Love each other as he had loved them. He set the example or the pattern they were to follow. He tells them there is no greater love than to give up one’s life for another—a friend or neighbor. <sup>John 15:13</sup>

### Friend Of Jesus

Jesus makes it very clear Believers are recognized as friends if they are following his recipe—his plan—his command. How could anyone have a better friend than God himself!

### Knowing What God Does

Jesus, after saying these wonderful things, makes an even more startling statement. He says the Believer is not a servant but a friend! He actually says Believers will be allowed to know what God will do, is doing, and has done!<sup>John 15:15</sup>

Notes:

[a] \_\_\_\_\_

### I Choose You

Jesus said in John 15:16 ... “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. The word choose there means “to select.” Believers are selected and then “placed” (appointed, ordained) to bear fruit—that is to pluck fruit. We are not to wait for the fruit to fall for the harvest—we are to pluck it. When a fruit is pulled—plucked from the tree or the vine it is plucked because it is ready for harvest. The fruit which falls on it’s own is in danger of being bruised, trampled, or rotting. A plucked fruit is cared for fruit. Protected fruit. Loved fruit!

### Love The Fruit

Jesus told the disciples, “This is my command: Love each other.” <sup>»John 15:17</sup> Believers are all fruit loved by Jesus the Christ and the fruit must love each other!

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

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What do I attach myself to, or better said, to what am I attached? Everyone is attached to a person, a philosophy, a culture, a belief, or something. By being attached to something I am a part of it, whatever it may be. I take on the very nature I have through my attachment. I was born into a family, a culture, a country, a belief system and so was everyone else.

### Jesus The Vine

Jesus said he is the vine and I, as a Believer, am a branch of the Jesus Vine. As long as I remain attached to the Jesus Vine then I am a part of the Jesus Vine. I will have the characteristics of the Jesus vine since I am a Jesus vine branch. A vine branch gets it’s life from the vine through very small tubes which bring water to the branches and nourishment from the soil in which the vine is rooted.

### Natural Branch Function

The natural function of a

branch is to grow, and in growing add leaves to the vine which will bring about energy for the vine as well as fruit

Notes:

for reproduction of the vine to the glory of the gardener or husbandman.

### The Gardener

The gardener dresses the vine to keep it healthy and productive. A part of the process in dressing the vine is to ensure each of the branches it clean and healthy so the gardener will prune the vine of all non-productive and dead portions to strengthen the vine for one purpose—to bear fruit. The branches which are removed are taken away from the plant and burned to prevent the vine’s branches from becoming diseased.

### Disease Destroys

Disease destroys! Disease prevents a plant from fulfilling its purpose. A diseased plant cannot bear fruit. It may start to produce healthy fruit but the fruit will either wither and fall away before

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture:

John 15:1-17<sup>(NIV)</sup>

### The Vine and the Branches

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true<sup>[a]</sup> vine,<sup>[b]</sup> and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[c]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing

a. True (as not concealing)

b. A vine (as coiling about a support)

c. The Greek for prunes also means cleans.

yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

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harvest, or if the fruit lasts until harvest it will be discarded as unwholesome.

### Living On The Vine

Living on the vine, the Jesus Vine, is the only way I can remain healthy as a Believer and acceptor of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Living on the Jesus Vine is known as to abide (the NIV says remain). The Greek word for abide or remain is *meno*, it means *to stay*, (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):—abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for).

### Much Fruit

Jesus said in John 15:6 ...If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. ... How do I know my faithfulness and standing in The Kingdom? I will bear much fruit. No Jesus did not say I must be perfect if I remain in him. He did say the Father, the Gardener, would clean or prune me, not I, but the Gardner. Jesus said, I would bear much fruit and in the doing bring glory to The Father, The Gardener! “God is love,”<sup>1</sup> John 4:16 is a very familiar scripture to most believers in Jesus the Christ. Most unbelievers, as

a matter-of-fact, are quick to point to these very words to describe God. Their understanding may be flawed regarding the meaning of this scripture but they nevertheless will also be often quick to say, “God is love.”

Jesus made a startling statement to his disciples,<sup>John 15:9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” He said he loved his disciples in the same way the Heavenly Father loved him. Think of that!

### If You Obey

Jesus said,<sup>John 15:10</sup> “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.” The word remain can actually be translated “abide” in his love. Can you imagine a better place to live!

Then, also, the word “obey”<sup>John 15:10</sup> can also be rendered as “follow the recipe.” The key to abiding in Christ is to learn the recipe and follow it. You only get the correct baked goods if you stick to the recipe!

### Full Of Joy

The scripture tells us, “The joy of the Lord is your