

Remaining in Union with Christ

John 15:1-17

Read through the passages and pray that God's Spirit would give you spiritual insight.

1. In v.1, Jesus describes himself as “the vine.” Who is described by that title in the Old Testament, and why is that significant? Take a look at Psalm 80:8-16; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 2:21.
2. Jesus saying, “I am the vine” is one of the seven “I am” sayings in the Gospel of John. What are the others and why does Jesus speak in this way about himself? Consider John 6:25-48; John 8:12; John 10:11-14; John 10:17; John 11:25; John 14:6.
3. What is the role of the Father in v.2? What might that look like in our daily lives?
4. Jesus says we should remain in him so that we might bear fruit. What does that fruit look like according to the rest of the New Testament? Examine Matthew 3:8; Romans 6:22; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9.
5. Why does Jesus mention in v.3 that we are already “clean”? What does it mean to be clean? How have we become clean? Jesus also uses the same word in John 13:10.
6. What does v.5b mean for salvation and how to live the Christian life?
7. What does v.6 say to those who think to themselves, “I can merely believe in Jesus, and that’s my ticket to heaven, I don’t actually have to change”?
8. What does it mean to “abide in Christ”? What are the two ways Jesus describes this abiding in v.10 and v.14?
9. What are the two main ways Jesus speaks of abiding in him according to v.7? What relationship do these activities have to one another?
10. What does it mean that the Father is “glorified” in Christians bearing much fruit (v.8)? How does this relate to the last time Jesus spoke about his Father being glorified in John 13:31-32?
11. Jesus explains the chain of love between the Father, Son, and Christians in v.9-10, 12-13. How would you describe this love from your perspective?
12. What does Jesus mean that he has told us these things that our “joy” may be full (v. 10)? Why “joy”?
13. Up to this point Jesus has regularly spoken about keeping his “commandments” but in v.12 he narrows it down to a specific commandment. What is that commandment? Why does Jesus call this a new commandment in John 13:34? How should we apply it? How does it relate to “remaining in Christ” and “bearing fruit”? What resources does Jesus provide for us to fulfil this command in v.7, 13, and 16?

Pray that God will enable you to remain in Christ through his Word and by prayer.