



## February 14, 2016 | John 15:1-11

This part of John (13–21) zeroes in on Jesus' final few days leading to His death and resurrection. Last week we looked at the latter half of John 15 and how Jesus is preparing His disciples for the persecution they will face after He leaves. In this earlier section of John 15 He has a specific message for His disciples – “I AM the True Vine.”

### Read John 15:1-11.

Many of the biblical images of Christ and the believer emphasize the important concept of union and communion:

- the branches and the Vine
- the body and its Head (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4)
- the bride and the Bridegroom (Ephesians 5:25–33)
- the sheep and the Shepherd (John 10)

### Remain in Him

In John 15, the New International Version uses the word *remain* and other versions use the word *abide*.

*The ESV Study Bible: Abide in me* means to continue in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus, characterized by trust, prayer, obedience (v. 10), and joy.

[Q] What does abiding or remaining in Jesus, the True Vine, involve for you— practically speaking, on a typical day?

[Q] What will happen to the branch that remains in Jesus? How do you know if you are abiding in Him?

### The Result of Remaining in Jesus

[Q] Part of remaining in the vine is the Father's pruning. Have you experienced pruning? How did you respond?

[Q] What kind of fruit do you see in each of the following verses?

Galatians 5:22-23

Colossians 1:9-10

Romans 1:13

Romans 6:22 (benefit=fruit)

Hebrews 13:15

[Q] What fruit are you looking to produce in your life? How would focusing on remaining/abiding in the True Vine, Jesus, be the way to cultivate it?

[Q] What are some examples of the false vines that we substitute for the True Vine? Are they necessarily bad? What makes them false?

[Q] Why do you think Jesus answers the prayers of those who meet the two conditions in John 15:7?

“How to remain in Jesus: meditate relentlessly on the message of the True Vine – the Gospel...don't stop thinking about the Gospel, the True Vine and how in Him we have all we need.”

– Pastor Chris DeArman

[Q] Apply: What will you do tomorrow to remain/abide in Jesus? How can your group encourage one another?

*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:11 (NIV)*

## Pray

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Next week: John 16:17-33