

John Chapter 15

Talking to disciples about bearing fruit. Uses imagery that they would be familiar with. Humility of Jesus; He is God and Bright and Morning Star, calls Himself a vine. Vine doesn't look like much on the outside but bears the fruit. Spreads- His Salvation spreads over the earth. True Vine.

The Father sent the Son- planted in dry ground. We are the branches. All connected to the vine. Can't exist by themselves. Father cares for the branches so they bear more fruit. Fruit comes from a vine; fruit should come from us.

There are some branches that do not bear fruit – they look like the other branches. If they were really connected to Christ they would bear fruit. Fruitful branches become more fruitful.

V3: the Word of Christ cleans them and us. Grace.

V4: in order to be fruitful we must stay united to Christ. Constant dependence on Him. Communion between Him and us. The vine has sap, Holy Spirit, as the communication.

V6: those that are not with Christ are cast away, wither, and thrown into the fire. They are abandoned and left to themselves. Withered branches are good for nothing else. Greek form of burned is "forever burned."

The Father is glorified by our bearing fruit. We follow Jesus and bear fruit for the Kingdom.

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. Love between the Father and the Son. Worthy and unworthy. In Plan of Salvation. Abiding love.

So therefore we should love one another.

Laying down His Life for His friends. Different than us dying for friends. Love of the highest degree. While we were enemies; Rom 5:8-10.

V14-15 : His followers are His friends. Not slaves or servants. Slaves don't know what the master is doing. He is telling them; and telling us; what He is doing. God tells us what He is doing through the Scripture. He treats us as friends. Those around us are fellow servants.

After the Resurrection, He treats them more tenderly and intimately. Peter and Paul call themselves servants but He calls them friends.

He chooses us. Not that we were the most intelligent, hardest working, most lovable, the most righteous. He loved us first; not that we loved Him. Chosen to bear fruit. Appointed. Not to sit and be

comfortable but to bear fruit. The fruit should remain through generations. All Christian history and thought is transmitted to us. Whatever we need will be provided. His Father is our Father.

V 17 : Command to love one another. We are all called by His Sovereignty and all called to work in the field.

V 18-20 : hate is from the devil's kingdom. Love is from God's Kingdom. If we follow Him the world will hate us. We are chosen *out* of the world. So the world hates us. The term "world" shows that it is a large number. People of the world are concerned with pleasures and wealth of the world. We are committed to Christ; we are in the world but not of the world. I John 2:16. I John 4:4. John 17:16.

Jesus tells us that we do not fit in. *He* called us out of the world. Seed of the serpent and seed of the woman. If they would keep His Word they would listen to us. The world will react to us like it reacted to Him. The prophets were treated in the same way.

V 21: they hate us because we bear His Name. We stand for Him. Apostles rejoiced that they were persecuted for Him Name. Based on ignorance-they do not know Who sent Him. Reject Him as Son and Messiah.

V22-23 : He came and spoke His Word. They should have accepted and loved this. If He hadn't spoken they would be without excuse. Now there is no excuse for their sin. Reject Salvation. If they reject Christ they also reject the Father. Other religions. Other systems.

V24: His works prove that he was sent from God. No man could do these things. They saw His works and rejected Him anyway so they have their sin.

V 25: they hate Him without a cause. They reject Him despite the evidence. Psalm 69:4. Psalm 35:19. Seems to be an irrational hatred.

V 26-27: after telling them what would happen, He tells them the solution. The **other** Paraclete will testify of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a distinct Person. Spirit of Truth. He will direct them, embolden them, and strengthen them. This would happen throughout Christian time.

He testifies of sin and Salvation. I John 5: 7-8. So therefore, they will also bear witness. They have experienced Jesus from the beginning of His ministry and now the Spirit will strengthen them so they can proclaim the Kingdom.