

## I Am The True Vine: John 15:1-11.

### I. (1-3) The *True vine*.

I Am The Bread Of Life (John 6:35), I Am The Light Of The World (John 8:12), I Am Door (John 10:9), I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), I Am The Resurrection & Life (John 11:25), I Am The Way The Truth and The Life (John 14:6)...

Jesus may have said this in view of Vine-yards around Jerusalem. There were fruitful and false-fruitless Vines. The branches that bear fruit are *cleansed* by pruning with God's Word, for more fruitfulness. ***"The word of God is a cleansing agent. It condemns sin, it inspires holiness, it promotes growth, and it reveals power for victory."***

God wants the fruitful to bear more fruit and the unfruitful to bear fruit.

**The fruit represents Christian character (Christlikeness) and continuous productivity – fruits disseminate seeds.**

### II. (4-8) The Vine And The Branches.

Fruit bearing is impossible without attachment to the main stem, Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 13:18-23** - *"Therefore hear the parable of the sower:*

*"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.*

**"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.**

*"Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.*

**"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."**

The branches **cast out** are fruitless Christians; they don't have any external sign about their Christianity; **carnal, lukewarm and not committed to growth.**

**James 2:26** - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also.**

**Galatians 5:22-23** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Romans 12:4-8** - For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Answered prayer is a privilege of a close relationship with Jesus Christ; when we're close to Him our prayers will be in tune with Jesus' will.**

The purpose of fruit-bearing is to bring glory to God; to please, honour and worship Him.

### **III. (9-11) Love and Obedience.**

**1 Timothy 1:5** - Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,

We know that we abide in God's love by obedience.

When we fail to abide in Jesus' love, and thereby fail to keep His commandments, then we do not have the fullness of joy He promises to those who do abide in His love and obedience.

*When we think about the joy of Jesus, we understand that it isn't the same as what we often think of as "happiness" or "excitement." The joy of Jesus is not the pleasure of a life of ease; it is the exhilaration of being right with God, and consciously walking in His love and care. We can have that **joy**, and have it as an abiding presence.*