

IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING

LARRY CHAPPELL | MAY 26, 2024

Text: John 15:1-13

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the ^{vintner} husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:1-13)

INTRODUCTION

- Vineyards

- * Jesus is the grape vine
- * Heavenly Father is vineyard vintner
- * Christians are in grape branches
- * Heavenly Father prunes the grape vine to grow more fruit
- * Observe commands of Jesus
- * Love one another

- Jesus Christ and the church compared to

- * grape vine in vineyard
- * a physical body ("body of Christ")
- * a marriage (bride of Christ)

- Comfort from Jesus

- * In 14:1-4 In my Father's house...
- * another Comforter in In 14:16-17, 26

1. LIFE IN CHRIST IS True (v. 1)

- Vineyards in Old Testament ~~picture~~
picture of Israel
- Jesus taught several parables of vineyards
- avoid false vines

- A. Jesus Is Not a supplement to Life - not added vitamin
- B. Jesus Is the source of Life - spiritual life

2. THE FATHER CARES FOR

YOUR Flourishing (v. 2-3) = F

- Father gives true health

- A. He Cleanses Us through His Word (Scripture)
- B. He Shapes Us according to His Will - father's will

3. WE PRODUCE NOTHING APART

FROM Christ (v. 4-5)

- Jesus said, "I am the true vine"
- "Without Me, you can do nothing"
- In 15:15 But I have called you friends

- A. Without Christ, We Are Not Less Effective, but ineffective (have no effect)
- B. Bearing Fruit Is the Truest evidence of Life in Christ

PRAYER

OBEDIENCE

} Abiding in Christ

- fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

JOY

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

THE FRUIT OF THE TRUE VINE

1. Prayer (v. 7) - ask what you desire
2. Obedience (v. 10) - keep (observe) the commands
3. Joy (v. 11) - full of Jesus' joy
4. Sacrificial Love (v. 12-13) - laying down your life for your friends

4. OUR SOULS ARE Satisfied AND HE IS Glorified WHEN WE ABIDE (v. 8)

- Jesus is the living word
- Living in Jesus presence
- Jesus is always present now

- A. Abiding Isn't apathy
- B. Abiding Isn't activism
- C. Abiding Is a Continual awareness of His Presence, attentiveness to His Word, and affection for His Ways

CONCLUSION

Seven "I AM's" of Christ

- "I AM the true vine" (Jn 15:1)
- "I AM the door" (Jn 10:9)
- "I AM the good shepherd" (Jn 10:11)
- "I AM the bread of life" (Jn 6:35)
- "I AM the light of the world" (Jn 8:12)
- "I AM the resurrection and the life" (Jn 11:25)
- "I AM the way, the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6)

