

John 15:1 - 16:15

Jesus' Farewell Discourse: Abide in the Vine,
Love One Another; The World's Hatred;

Day 1

Read John 15:1-8 Abide in the Vine

1. In 15:1-6, who is:

- the vine:
- the vinedresser/gardener:
- the fruitful branch:
- the unfruitful branch:

Optional Digging Deeper

Fill out the 7th "I am" statement on the chart: "*I am*" Statements in John.

For Your Information: "I am the true vine" "Jesus draws heavily on the metaphor of a vineyard, a powerful symbol with roots running deep into the soil of Israel's history (Ps 80:8-9; Isa. 5:1-7; Ezekiel 15:1-5; Hosea 10:1). No illustration touched the Hebrew soul like the image of a vinedresser and his vineyard." - Charles Swindoll (255)

"Jesus may have said this in view of, or as they passed by, the great golden vine on the front of the temple. This vine symbolized the nation Israel, because the vine is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (Psalm 80:8-9) but is often used in a negative sense (Isaiah 5:1-2,7 and Jeremiah 2:21)." - David Guzik

"True" *alethinos* NT:228...denotes 'true' in the sense of real, ideal, genuine..." - Vine's Expository Dictionary

2. What kind of care does the Father give the branches? 15:2

Optional Digging Deeper

From Isaiah 5:1-7:

How did God care for His vine? 5:2

What did it produce? 5:2

Who was the vine? 5:7 (See also Ps. 80:8)

What fruit was He seeking? 5:7

What did He find? 5:7,20,23

IT'S GREEK TO ME "takes away/cuts off" "The Greek verb *airo*, translated 'takes away' has the primary definition of 'to lift from the ground,' although the term can... mean 'to lift with a view to carrying, to carry off or put away.' John uses *airo* in both senses: 'to take away' (11:39; 11:48; 16:22; 17:15) and 'to lift up' (5:8-12; 8:59). Therefore, a strong case for either definition can be made." - Charles Swindoll (257)

"prunes" *kathairo* Strong's #2508, 'to cleanse,' is used of pruning, John 15:2" - Vine's Expository Dictionary

"Boice believes that the ancient Greek verb *airo*, translated here as 'takes away' is more accurately translated 'lifts up.' The idea is that the Father lifts up unproductive vines off of the ground (as is common in vinedressing), that they may get more sun and bear fruit better." - David Guzik

3. How were the disciples already "clean" (from the same word as "prunes" in 15:2)? 15:3 (Cf. 17:17)

4. What is essential to bearing fruit? 15:4,5 (What does this say about where our energy and ability comes from? Mark the word “*abide/remain*” in 14:4-10.)

5. Underline the things that are associated with fruit:

- Galatians 5:22,23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. NIV
- Ephesians 5:9 for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth NIV
- Philippians 1:11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God. NIV
- Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, NIV

6. Who/what abides in us? 15:4,7 (Compare Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Jeremiah 15:16)

7. How much spiritual fruit can we produce on our own? 15:5 (Compare 2 Corinthians 3:5; 4:7)

- What words describe the fruit we bear in Christ? 15:2,5,16

For Your Information: “The primary subject of Christ’ teaching is abiding, not bearing fruit. At no point in the discourse is the believer commanded to produce fruit. Instead, we are promised that if we abide, fruit will result...The subject is not salvation but vitality as a believer. The image of ‘fruit’ in biblical literature is a common analogy for ‘proof.’”

- Charles Swindoll (255,258)

8. Underline what the following verses say about God's work in us:

- Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. NIV
- Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. NASU
- Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, NIV
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. NIV
- Hebrews 13:20-21 May the God of peace,,,equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. NIV

9. What happens to someone who does not abide in Christ? 15:6 (Compare 1 Corinthians 3:12-15)

10. What are some benefits/fruits of abiding? 15:7,8

For Your Information: *"What you wish, and it shall be done for you."* "This is not to suggest that God will become our personal genie. The promise is conditional. If we are connected to the vine and we are becoming more and more like Jesus, our prayers will not be selfish, but the kind of requests He would make." - Charles Swindoll (260)

Applying the Word: Kent Hughes wrote: "God's hand is never closer than when He prunes the vine." Describe an experience you have had of being pruned by the Father? What was the result?

Day 2

Read John 15:9-17

Abide in My love

11. Fill in the phrases that are connected by the word "just as".

15:9	<i>"Just as the Father has loved Me"</i>	
15:10	<i>"just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love"</i>	
15:12	<i>"just as I have loved you"</i>	(Cf. 13:34; compare Eph. 5:25)

For Your Information: "It begins with abiding in the love of Jesus; much of our low level of Christian living comes from not being persuaded of the love of God for us. This is, in part, what kept Israel out of the Promised Land at Kadesh Barnea (Deuteronomy 1:27)." - David Guzik

12. What reason did Jesus give for telling the disciples these things? 15:11 (Cf. John 17:13; Compare Romans 15:13)

For Your Information: "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." - David Guzik

"These qualities of love toward others, joy within one's own heart, spontaneous obedience to Christ [8], and a prayer life that brings concrete answers [7] are convincing proofs of the actuality of the life of God in the soul of man. 'By their fruits ye shall know them' (Matt. 7:16)." - Merrill Tenney (228,229)

13. How can we possibly model Christ's love and obedience? Philippians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:3

14. What is the highest form of love? 15:13 (What do you think it means to “*lay down your life*” for a friend?)

- What motivates us to love that way? 1 John 4:9-11; 19

For Your Information: “Lay down his life for his friends” “This ultimate sacrifice is the ultimate expression of love; we are unlikely, however, to face such a choice. More often we are asked to give up our lives in small measures, day by day, rather than in one grand gesture. In many ways, this is more difficult.” - Charles Swindoll (264)

“The first element of this lofty love was sacrifice...(13). This marked the highest achievement of human love. Divine love went beyond this, for Jesus laid down His life for His enemies. As Romans 5:8 says, ‘God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’” - Merrill Tenney (229)

Friends of Christ

15. What does friendship with the Lord (15:14-17) say about;

- our behavior - 15:14
- our understanding - 15:15
- our calling - 15:16a
- our achievements - 15:16b
- our attitude - 15:17

Food for Thought: “A bondservant...would be expected to obey without knowing the reason why. Jesus, on the other hand, took His disciples into His confidence, ‘for,’ He said, ‘all things that I heard from my Father I have made know unto you’ (15) He shared with them the secrets of heaven.” - Merrill Tenney (230)

“The Almighty Creator of the universe has invited us to relate with Him as a friend!” - Charles Swindoll (264)

16. What differences do you think of between the relationship of a servant with a master versus a friend with a master (15:15)? (Compare Galatians 4:6-7)

17. Why do you think Jesus was saying these things to the disciples? (i.e. How was this equipping them for the future difficulties they would be facing?)

Applying the Word: What are some of the qualities you cherish most in a friend? What qualities of a friend do you picture in Christ?

Day 3

Read John 15:18-6:4

The world's hatred of believers

18. What reasons did Jesus give for the world's hatred?

- 15:18,20
- 15:19 (Cf. 3:19,20)
- 15:20
- 15:21

19. In 15:19, what two terms describe the believer's relationship to the world? (Cf. 1 Peter 2:11)

The world's hatred of God

20. Why is the world held accountable for its sin?

- 15:22 (Cf. 1:18-20)
- 15:24

Optional Digging Deeper

Why else are men "without excuse?" Romans 1:18-20

For Your Information: "[The world] killed the Lord's prophets, polluted His words, ignored His warnings, and turned His house into a den of brigands, but a case could be made – however thin - for doubt or misunderstanding. But when God presented Himself in person, in the flesh of humanity and in fulfillment of every messianic expectation, He left the world without excuse for rejecting Him. The flesh of God's Son became the occasion for the world to expose its hatred for their Creator and, thus, consummate their sin."
- Charles Swindoll (269)

21. What else does the world's hatred display? 15:23, 24b (Compare 1 John 2:23)

- What was Jesus' evaluation of the world's hatred of Him? 15:25 (Quoted from: Psalm 35:19; 69:4) How would you describe Jesus' use of the term "world" in these verses?

22. How do the following describe the world and/or its ways?

- Ephesians 2:2-3
- 1 John 2:15-16
- 1 John 5:19

23. Why were the disciples qualified to testify to the gospel? 15:26,27 (Cf. 14:26; Compare 1 John 1:1-3)

Food for Thought: "He will testify of Me: Everything the Holy Spirit does is consistent with the testimony of the nature of Jesus. His job is to tell us, and to show us, who Jesus is. If spiritual phenomenon occur that are not consistent with the nature of Jesus, it isn't the Holy Spirit doing it. He is the One who will **testify of** Jesus in all that He does." - David Guzik

"In this verse, Jesus is not ordering [the disciples] to testify, He is simply stating what would, in fact, happen. What they had done and what they had become already stood as a witness against the world.

In a Jewish court of law, two or three witnesses were required to establish a case. Here we have four witnesses (Jesus' word, His deeds, the Holy Spirit and the disciples). The world stands convicted." - Africa Bible Commentary (1286)

The world's hatred of the disciples

24. What would motivate people to persecute the disciples? 16:2

- Why would they do this? 16:3

Food for Thought: "The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service:" "Some of the worst persecutions have been done in the name of God, even though God remains unknown to the persecutors." - David Guzik

Optional Digging Deeper

What are ways that believers were persecuted?

- John 9:22,34

- Acts 4:18-20

- Acts 9:1-2; 26:9-10

- Acts 14:3-7; 2 Cor 11:23-26

25. List the reasons Jesus gave for telling the disciples these things?

- 15:11
- 16:1
- 16:4
- 16:33

26. Compare how Jesus comforted the disciples regarding persecution in Luke 6:22-23?

Applying the Word: What kinds of suffering or rejection have you experienced in being a Christian? What has been your comfort?

Day 4

Read John 16:5-15

The promise of the Holy Spirit

27. What state of mind were the disciples in after hearing all that Jesus had been telling them? 16:5,6 (See Luke 22:45)

- How did Jesus comfort them about His departure? 16:7

28. Why do you think the Spirit's presence in the disciple's lives, rather than Jesus' physical presence, would be advantageous?

The Holy Spirit's ministry to world

29. About what three things does the Holy Spirit convict the world and why? 16:8-11

<i>"Convict the world concerning":</i>	<i>"because":</i>
16:9	(See John 8:24)
16:10	(Compare 2 Corinthians 5:21)
16:11	(Cf. John 12:31; See Hebrews 2:14)

Food for Thought: "The child of God living on this earth, empowered by the Spirit of God, is a living letter observed by the world. As the world witnesses the child of God being controlled by the Spirit, the world observes a life undergoing transformation. The world is confronted by the Holy Spirit via His activity in believers." - Charles Swindoll (277)

Sin: "Why should men be convicted of sin because of unbelief rather than because of some concrete offense, such as murder, theft, or adultery?...If Jesus is the Son of God...then rejection of Him is the greatest and most fatal sin of all...It is the deliberate refusal of God's will."

Righteousness: "The return of Jesus to the Father was the ultimate proof that He was the perfect pattern for righteousness, accepted by the Father...The Father placed the stamp of divine approval upon His ministry by raising Him from death, and established Him as the enduring embodiment of holiness."

Judgment: "The vindication of Christ by the resurrection as the incarnate righteousness of God was at the same time God's rejection of the prince of this world as the personification of all that is evil." - Merrill Tenney (236,237)

The Holy Spirit's ministry to believers

30. Why did Jesus have to limit his teaching? 16:12

- How would the disciples continue to be taught? 16:13a

31. List the phrases (“*He will...*”) that describe the work of the Holy Spirit given in 16:13-15. (Cf. 15:26)

For Your Information: “How is it possible to distinguish the voice of the Holy Spirit in the noise of conflicting dogmas and creeds? The second statement of Jesus applies: ‘He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak’ (13). The Spirit does not advertise Himself. He presents the teaching which is consistent with the previous revelation and which comes from the heart of God... Like a spotlight which brings some object into brilliant relief against the blackness of the surrounding night, but which calls no attention to itself, the Spirit’s chief mission is to make men conscious of Christ rather than of Himself.”
- Merrill Tenney (238,239)

Optional Digging Deeper

What are some “I will” promises of Christ?

Matt 11:28

John 6:37

John 6:40

John 14:18

John 15:4

John 15:26

John 16:7

32. Underline the work of the Holy Spirit:

- Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;
- Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Optional Digging Deeper

Memorize John 15:4 & 9

Applying the Word: What guidelines do you use for discerning truth from error?