

"I AM THE TRUE VINE"

John 15:1–17

Key Verse: 15:5

1. Notice the setting of this final statement. It is part of the Farewell Discourse, given privately to those who are already his disciples, right before his arrest and crucifixion. Why would Jesus save this metaphor of connection for his followers instead of giving it to the general public? How does this affect the way you read it?
2. In verse 1, Jesus uses the specific word "true" vine, implying a contrast with a false or failing vine. In the Old Testament Israel was described as God's vineyard that grew wild and failed to produce fruit. What is Jesus claiming by saying he is the "true," dependable vine? What are some false vines that we lean on for life-source and value today?
3. Analyze closely verses 2–3. What two actions does the vinedresser (the Father) perform on the branches? According to verse 3, by what instrument have the disciples already been made clean or pruned? How does this truth, that pruning is done by the word of Jesus, help us when we are struggling?
4. Count how often the word "abide" or "remain" is repeated in verses 4–10. According to verse 5, what is the absolute result of separating oneself from the vine? Look at verses 7 and 10. What are the specific, objective ways of abiding? How can we abide in his words in a busy, chaotic daily life?
5. Read verse 11. Why does Jesus say he is teaching these hard truths about pruning and abiding? How does this redefine Christian life? If your spiritual life feels dry or mechanical, what may be missing in your connection with the true vine Jesus?
6. In verses 12–15 Jesus elevates the status of his followers from "servants" to "friends." According to verse 15, what is the defining trait of this friendship? According to verse 13, how does Jesus define the greatest love? How does this ultimate relationship with the Father through Jesus the vine altar the way we think and live?
7. Observe the communal language in verses 12 and 17. The branches are not individual plants potted separately; they are structurally interconnected to the exact same vine. How does this truth eliminate isolated individualism in your life, and how can we help each other bear fruit as a community?