

Remain in the Vine (John 15:1-17)

Big Idea: Jesus is the true vine, we are the branches, so remain in him, to bear lasting fruit.

Introduction

1a. Jesus is the True Vine...

In the OT, vine = people of God (eg. Psalm 80:8-9)

Jesus now

- redefines what it means to be the people of God

- embodies what Israel was meant (and failed) to be

∴ Key to fruitfulness: connection to the true vine

1b. ...we are the branches...

Our relationship with Jesus

Is not just transaction, but *living union* with him

Another image picturing the same reality: the covenant of marriage

Implications:

- Closer to Jesus now than the disciples in the Upper Room
- Given everything we need for life and godliness

2.so remain in the Vine...

The logic: You have been found by Jesus and joined to him, *stay there!*

Neither passive drifting nor frantic striving

A double grace – from the same source

The purpose of union with Christ: to bear fruit (v8)

- The fruit of character
- The fruit of witness
- The fruit of love for one another

How thoroughly committed God is to our fruit-bearing

- **prunes living branches**
- **removes dead wood**

The reassurance of v3

3. ...to bear fruit *that will last*

How to do so?

- Remain in his words (v7, 9, 11)**
- Remain in obedience to Jesus (v10, 12, 17)**

So you can ask (v7) – as your desires are shaped by Jesus.

And that way, you can go (v16) – as those appointed and commissioned.