

John 15:1-6

Becoming Fruit Bearers

I. Source for Fruit Bearing

15:1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

A. The Father as the Vinedresser

The job of the Vinedresser: to help the grape bush produce the most it is capable of, which means cutting off the dead wood and pruning the living wood.

B. Jesus as the True Vine

The job of the Vine:

The vine is the trunk of the grape plant. It is the thick part that provides nourishment to the branches. It is also the strong part that holds up the plant

C. We are the Branches

The job of the Branch

The branch is the focus of the vinedresser. The branch is the part of the bush that produces the fruit. Branches are fragile and need a lot of help. They need propped up, tied up, pruned and cared for in order to produce the best fruit possible.

II. Bearing Fruit

What is the fruit that we should bear?

- Galatians 5:22-23: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."
- Ephesians 5:9: "The fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true."
- Colossians 1:6: "Just as it (the gospel) is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God."
- Colossians 1:10: "So that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God."
- Hebrews 12:11: "Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."
- Titus 3:14: "And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful."
- John 15:8: "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

To bear fruit is to continue the life of Christ here on earth.

III. How do we produce fruit

1. Pruning

2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Several things happen in this pruning process.

- 1) The non-bearing branches are taken
- 2) The bearing branches are trimmed

1) To take up

2) To Purify

2. The Word of Christ

3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

3. Abiding in Him

Fruit bearing depends on being connected with Jesus.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Conclusion

We have two fundamental choices to make in life:

- 1) Live connected to the world
- 2) Live connected to Christ

2 Cor. 9:8: And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”