

"The Gardener, The Vine, and the branches"

Psalm 80:8,9 *You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.*

Isaiah 5:7 *The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight.*

John 15

1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.*

vinedresser-ESV (A person who prunes, trains, and cultivates vines)

I am the true vine, and my Father takes care of the vineyard. -GW

Hebrews 12:10, 11

2 *He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

The primary purpose of a vineyard is to produce fruit.

in me: those who profess to be followers.

prunes: cleanse, remove worthless shoots. The vine is cleansed by pruning.

He removes every one of my branches that doesn't produce fruit.

He also prunes every branch that does produce fruit to make it produce more fruit. - GW

God never intends for Christians to stop producing fruit.

3 *You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*

The pruning or cleaning is done by the Word of God.

It condemns sin; it inspires holiness; it promotes growth. - Merrill C. Tenney

Matthew 7:24, 1Peter 2:2,3, Hebrews 4:12, 2Timothy 3:16,17

4 *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

Remain: abide, dwell, continue.... "don't depart" - Thayer's Greek Definitions

Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. - CEV

5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

The connection is maintained by obedience and prayer.

John 14:15 *"If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

Also **John 14:20, 23 - John 15:10, 14, See 1John 2:3-5**

A conscious acceptance of the authority of His Word

and a constant contact with Him through prayer. - Merrill C. Tenney

6 *If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*

Hebrews 6:7,8

If you don't stay joined to me, you will be thrown away.

You will be like dry branches that are gathered up and burned in a fire.-CEV

Selfish interests, unconfessed sin, a careless disregard for the truth, a bitter, unforgiving spirit can block the flow of life from the vine. - Roger Fredrikson, *The Preacher's Commentary* -

Dead wood is worse than fruitlessness, for dead wood can harbor disease and decay.

Merrill C. Tenney

Failure to abide produces spiritual disaster.

Matthew 10:1 *He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

Luke 9:1,2 *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

Luke 11:17,18 *Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub*

John 8:44 *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.*

You cannot be a Christian and knowingly, repeatedly, willingly, unashamedly do things that the Bible says are sin.

7 *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.*

ask whatever you wish: An object that Jesus Himself would desire.

8 *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored. -CEV

You give glory to my Father when you produce a lot of fruit and therefore show that you are my disciples.-GW