

I AM the Vine!

John 15

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John: The I AM (*ego eimi*) statements of Jesus. From the Hebrew word for God, Yahweh!

For over one thousand days (3 Years) Jesus walked and talked with His disciples. He poured out His heart, His love, and at times His exasperation, "How long must I be among you before you get it?" He not only told them, "***I AM the Bread of Life,***" but they are the ones who handed out five loaves and two fish to thousands of hungry participants. He said, "***I AM the Light of the World,***" and the three reported to the others of His glowing, or transfiguration, "just like Moses!" He said, "***I AM the Gate and the Good Shepherd!***" They had flocked and herded with Him for three years; He showed them how to be with and care for people! Now, He told them "***I AM the Resurrection and the Life,***" and "***I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life!***" These were hard to believe, even though they were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of their friend Lazarus. In the upper room, during Jesus final teaching with them, just moments from His betrayal, arrest, trial, beatings and finally crucifixion, Jesus gathered His flock in closely and taught them some of the most important lessons He would teach. He showed them real servant-leadership by humbly washing their feet, He broke bread, and passed the wine, setting the tone for remembering and fellowship. Finally, He instructed them, "***I am the Vine!***" "***Abide, remain in Me, and I will remain in you!***" "***There is no greater love, than to lay down one's life for another.***" "***Love each other!***"

Three Relationships for the Follower of Jesus:

"The first of these relationships is primary, for the very existence of the group depends on the union of each individual with Christ. To illustrate it, Jesus uses the analogy (or parable) of the vine and vineyard, a common feature of Palestinian life that would have been familiar to the disciples."

1. Relationship with Jesus. (Vv. 1-11)

"I AM the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me." (John 15:1-4)

a) A healthy disciple remains in intimate relationship with Christ (vv. 4-5)

Produces Fruit. Jesus is the vine; Father is the Gardner –cutting & pruning.
Already pruned by the message –pruning hurts!

“The means by which pruning or cleaning is done is the Word of God. It condemns sin; it inspires holiness; it promotes growth. As Jesus applies the words God gave him to the lives of the disciples, they undergo a pruning process that removes evil from them and conditions them for further service.”

One Minute Pause: “Jesus, I give everyone and everything to you. I am created for union with you! I give everything within me for union with you!”

Abide: Remain in a continuous state. Continue, endure, persist, persevere.

Union: Accord, harmony, synthesis, unison...

“Jesus leaves no place among his followers for fruitless disciples. The only option for such people is to be thrown away and burned.” “... you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me” (v. 4).

b) A healthy disciple (One who abides) may ask anything!

Maybe: **Prays** expectantly???

What you plant is what grows.

Face to Face intimacy with Christ creates oneness, we want what He wants, we become the people who naturally do His will.

“⁵ Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.”
(John 15:5-6)

c) A healthy disciple produces much fruit.

How? by remaining in Christ! And this brings Glory to Father-God. Christ alone is the vine: We must be attached to Him. Not through a church, country, or culture! We must each be directly linked to Christ!

⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. ⁹ “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”

d) A healthy disciple obeys and remains in Love!

e) A healthy disciple overflows with joy!

Obedience produces Joy! Love flows from joy. If you want joy, you must obey.

“Love is what unites the follower of Jesus just as branches are united to a vine. Two results stem from this relationship: obedience and joy. We obey because of faithfulness; joy is its result. Jesus intends his disciples to be both spontaneous and happy rather than burdensome and boring. Obedience in carrying out his purpose guarantees success, for Jesus never plans failure for his disciples. Joy logically follows when the disciples realize that the life of Christ in them is bringing fruit –something they could never produce in their own strength.”

2. Relationship with One Another (vv. 12-17)

"Jesus knew his disciples would soon constitute a distinct community with a definite function, and he wished to prepare them for the change his departure would make in their manner of living. Viewed from the standpoint of the writer and his time, this section previews the church and its development in the post resurrection period."

a) A healthy disciple loves like Jesus. Love as I have loved you.

"¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you."

"Jesus repeats his command to "love each other" (cf. [13:34](#)) because he knows that the future of the disciples' work among others depends on their attitude toward one another. His stress on love had been underscored earlier in this discourse ([14:15](#), [21](#), [23](#), [28](#)). Unity instead of rivalry, trust instead of suspicion, and obedience instead of self-assertion must rule the disciples' common labors. The measure of their love for one another is his love for them (cf. [13:34](#)), which would soon be demonstrated by his forthcoming sacrifice (see also [1Jn 3:16](#))."

b) A healthy disciple lays down one's own life for another.

"¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

c) A healthy disciple is no longer a slave, but a friend.

"¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."

d) A healthy disciple is chosen and produces lasting fruit.

"¹⁶ You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."

e) A healthy disciple obeys the command: love each other!

"¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other."

"Again Jesus defines friendship in terms of obedience. Christian friendship is more than a casual acquaintance; it is a partnership of mutual esteem and affection ([14:21](#)). Jesus elevates the disciples above mere tools and makes them partners in his work. A slave is never given a reason for the work assigned to him; he must perform it because he has no other choice. The friend, however, is a confidant who shares the knowledge of his superior's purpose and voluntarily adopts it as his own. Jesus declares that he has revealed to the disciples all that the Father has given to him. The disclosure of the mind of God concerning his career and theirs will give them assurance that they are engaged in the right task and that God will ultimately bring it to a successful conclusion."

3. Relationship with the World (Vv. 18-19, 26-27)

a) A Healthy disciple is hated by the world.

"¹⁸ If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you."

World: "Here Cosmos, [*Cosmos* most often refers to the inhabited earth and the people who live on the earth, which functions apart from God. Satan is the ruler of this "cosmos" ([John 12:31](#); [16:11](#); [1 John 5:19](#)).] those who are indifferent or hostile to God and his people. Jesus reminds the disciples that in spite of the fact that he has come on an errand of love, the world at large hates him; this carries over to his disciples as well. The world assumes this attitude because it rejects all who do not conform to its lifestyle." If you don't feel the scorn of the world, maybe you look too much like the world. KEY: In the world, but not of the world.

NOTE: *"¹⁴ I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world."* (John 17:14)

b. A Healthy disciple listens to the Spirit of Truth.

"²⁶ But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. ²⁷ And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry."

SUMMARY

A HEALTHY DISCIPLE:

Remains in Christ!
Prays expectantly!
Produces much fruit!
Obeys!
Overflows with Joy! Loves like Jesus!
Lays down life for another!
No longer a slave, but a friend!
Chosen, and produces lasting fruit!
Obeys: Love each other!
Is hated by the world!
Listens to the Spirit of Truth!

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