

# Connected

## Part I

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also 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. <sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” - John 15:1-8

*In this Series we will learn:*

God has uniquely created us to be connected to Him and to one another. Jesus reveals to us the way to a right relationship with God and calls us to love one another in community.

### 3 parts to Jesus’ illustration:

#### 1. *Jesus is the true vine:*

Old Testament – ‘Vine’ = Israel or the people of God

“The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel.” Isaiah 5:7

“I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?” Jeremiah 2:21

“Israel is an empty vine” Hosea 10:1

#### 2. *God is the gardener:*

“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.” John 15:2

##### a. He cuts off

‘airó’– I raise, lift up, take away, remove

##### b. He prunes

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11

#### 3. *We are branches*

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

#### *Our job is to bear fruit!*

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

##### a. Be with Jesus

##### b. Become like Jesus

### Our Connection to Jesus:

#### 1. **Reveals our status**

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.” John 15:3

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” Ephesians 3:12

#### 2. **Determines our destiny**

“No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” John 15:4

**We are completely incapable of pleasing God until we are utterly dependent on Jesus**

#### 3. **Leads to life**

“If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned” John 15:6

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

**The more we remain connected to Jesus the more we will pray.**

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