

Connected

Part I

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ “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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ 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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c. Be _____ Jesus

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