

## JOHN 15 BIBLE STUDY

Bible study of John chapter 15

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John 15:4-11 Bible Study: [I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches](#)

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**JOHN 15:1-3** <sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

**What does Jesus' statement, "I am the true vine" (John 15:1) imply?**

There are also false vines.

**What does the "fruit" (John 15:2) represent?**

It represents the nine traits mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23: **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."**

**Who is the "branch" (John 15:2)?**

Jesus specifies them as, **"in Me"** (John 15:2) that are **"already clean"** (John 15:3), and refers to them as, **"You"** (John 15:3) while speaking to the eleven true disciples, so **"branch"** refers to His disciples.

**What does it mean to "prune" (John 15:2)?**

Pruning a branch involves ripping out any diseased parts, killing bugs and even cutting away seemingly healthy but unwanted shoots so that the branch grows stronger in the direction that the vinedresser wants. From the branch's perspective, being pruned can be uncomfortable, if not painful, and at times also appear to make no sense.

**What do disciples of Jesus - i.e., branches of the vine - have to do to "bear fruit" (John 15:4) for God?**

"Abide" (John 15:4) in Jesus, the Word of God. Keep their faith in him.

**What can the branches do without this abiding?**

"Nothing" (John 15:5).

**But don't some branches today grow even without abiding in the Word of God?**

Yes, but they are not on the **"true vine"** and their fruits are not of or for God.

**Is Jesus saying in John 15:6 that if His disciples don't abide in Him, they will burn in hell?**

No, the context of this verse is Jesus telling his eleven remaining disciples (Judas had already left) - whom He knows to be true disciples and who are truly saved - about bearing much fruit for Him; Jesus isn't talking to a group that includes the unsaved. **If any of His disciples don't abide in Him, that disciple will be cast out "as a branch"** (John 15:6) - in other words, "as a disciple" - and **"is withered"** (John 15:6), which means dried up.

**Then what does the "fire" (John 15:6) represent?**

Had Jesus been speaking to a crowd that included the unsaved, this fire could have been the fire of hell. But given the context and the audience being Jesus' saved disciples, this fire is the one that they are thrown into, along with **"wood, hay, straw"** (1 Corinthians 3:12) mentioned in [1 Corinthians 3:9-15](#), which clearly states about salvation, **"If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."**

**How is the "Father... glorified" (John 15:8)?**

By His **"disciples"** bearing **"much fruit"** (John 15:8).

### Who gets the credit for the fruit?

The vinedresser (God the Father) and the true vine (Jesus). The branches are just tubes through which the fruit-forming nutrients (Holy Spirit) flows.

### How important is it to keep His commandments?

If it weren't imperative, Jesus wouldn't have kept emphasizing it.

**JOHN 15:12-13** <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

### Why does "love one another as I have loved you" sound familiar?

Jesus said it earlier in the last supper, as recorded in John 13:34-35:

### What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13)

### Did Jesus walk His talk?

Yes, He laid down His life for us, and that's why He can tell us to love one another "as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

### Do you walk your talk?

**JOHN 15:14-17** <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My

**name He may give you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, that you love one another.**

**When did Jesus call them "servants" (John 15:15)?**

**"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."(John 12:26) "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." (John 13:16)**

**Why does Jesus elevate them to "friends" (John 15:15)?**

He wants them to know - understand - Him: **"A servant does not know what his master is doing."** (John 15:15)

**How had Jesus trained them to become His friends?**

**"All things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15) by both word and action.**

**What must they do to remain His friends?**

**"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you." (John 15:14)**

**And why did Jesus elevate them now?**

Their training completed, they would soon be to sent off on a mission, so He was commissioning them.

**JOHN 15:18-21 <sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours**

**also. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.**

### What is Jesus doing in this passage?

He is warning them about and explaining the obstacles their mission will face. They will be "**hated**" (John 15:18) and "**persecuted**" (John 15:20) but such hatred and persecution are logical since they already hated and persecuted Jesus, whose message they will carry, and a sinful world will hate those who are no longer ("**I chose you out of the world**") "**its own**" (John 15:19).

### Were they really hated and persecuted as such?

All but one of the eleven disciples were eventually killed for their faith, as was Paul, who became a disciple later and listed as highlights of his ministry, "**From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned.**" (2 Corinthians 11:24-25; "**stripes**" refer to five whippings, each of thirty-nine lashes using leather whips) prior to his martyrdom.

### Are things any different today?

More Christians have been killed for their faith in the last 100 years than in the previous 1,900 years combined, and the trend is accelerating. Today, Christians continue to face imprisonment, torture and death for their faith in Jesus in such countries as North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mali, Somalia, etc.

### Do Jesus' words, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" apply to the Christians in the developed Western world?

Self-declared Christians who are not persecuted disprove either the Word of God or their self-declaration.

**JOHN 15:22-27 <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> He who hates Me**

hates My Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. <sup>25</sup> But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, They hated Me without a cause.' <sup>26</sup> "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

### Why would people have no sin if Jesus hadn't come and spoken to them and done His works?

They wouldn't have known how sinful they had become. John 1:5 refers to Jesus coming into the world as "**the light shines in the darkness.**" Imagine a group of people in a dark room wearing dirty clothes that they think are clean, until someone switches on the light. Until the light shines, they could claim ignorance of their dirty condition and even remain in them. But once the light shines, "**they have no excuse for their sin.**" (John 15:22)

### Who is Jesus referring to as "the Helper" and the "Spirit of truth" in John 15:26?

Holy Spirit.

### Of whom will He testify?

Jesus said, "**He will testify of Me**" (John 15:26). This is an important point to bear in mind when deciphering whether or not something is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will testify of Jesus, which means He certainly won't do anything that contradicts Jesus, whom John 1:1 calls the Word of God.