

## BE THE BRANCH AND NOT THE GARDENER

Sermon Outline, John 15:1-11

Sermon Series: The Gospel of John

Sunday, October 19, 2025

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- Jesus had a word for a satisfying, significant life. The word He used in John 15 was “\_\_\_\_\_” so that God is able to help us \_\_\_\_\_.
- The table below is from Chuck Swindoll from his Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Bible Commentary, “John,” p. 282.

Section	Relationship	Key Term	Emphasis
John 15:1-11	Believer With Christ	“_____” (10 times in 11 verses)	Union
John 15:12-17	Believer With Believer	“_____” (4 times in 6 verses)	Communion
John 15:18-27	Believer With The World	“_____” (8 times in 10 verses)	Persecution

- The word Jesus uses for hate in John 15:18-27 is the Greek New Testament word [μισέω; miseo]. It means “to hate, to detest, to pursue or chase with hatred.”

† John 15:1, “I am the true Grapevine, and my Father is the Gardener” (NLT).

† Exodus 3:13-14, “But Moses protested, ‘If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is His name?’ Then what should I tell them?’”  
14God replied to Moses, ‘I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you’” (NLT).

### 7 “I Am” Statements By Jesus

- I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of Life (John 6:35).
- I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the World (John 8:12).
- I am the \_\_\_\_\_” (John 10:9).
- I am the good \_\_\_\_\_ (John 10:11).
- I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (John 11:25).
- I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_” (John 14:6).
- I am the true \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:1).

### Information That Is Important To Understand John 15

1. John 15 is only for \_\_\_\_\_. It is not about how to \_\_\_\_\_ a Christian, but about how to \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian.
2. John 15 uses an \_\_\_\_\_ that we must be careful in how we interpret it. Rules for this:
  - (a) Do not attempt to interpret details in allegories that are not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) Do not attempt to attach spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to every detail in allegories.

### To Be Fruitful, Jesus Says There Are Some Truths I Must Remember

1. I am a \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually (John 15:1).

#### This Means . . .

- God is the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_. I am a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The key to spiritual growth is I have to stay \_\_\_\_\_ to the Vine —Jesus.

2. I will be \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:2-3).

† John 15:4, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me” (NASB).

- See the word “abide?” It is the Greek New Testament word [μένω, meno]. It describes an action that remains where it is, continues in a fixed state, or endures.” In this context, the word refers to maintaining an unbroken \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ so that our lives are so different from the world that it results in making \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ.
- + Hebrews 13:15, “Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name to others” (PAR).
- + Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (NASB).

### Why Does God the Gardener Prune Us?

- (a) It is to increase \_\_\_\_\_ in the believer.
- The Greek New Testament word Jesus uses here for pruning is [καθαίρω, kathairo]. It literally refers to “removing the husks off of corn, clearing dirt before planting crops, to remove filth and impurities.”

### In the First Century There Were Several Ways They Pruned A Branch

- Sometimes the tip was pinched off so the shoot would grow slowly in maturity.
  - Larger or longer branches were shortened so as not to weigh down the branch and break the vine.
  - Dead or unwanted branches were totally cut off so as not to drain needed nutrients to the vine.
- (b) Pruning of the Christian refers to God \_\_\_\_\_ us for allowing sin in our lives that keeps us from making disciples and becoming more like Jesus Christ.
- + Hebrews 12:6-7 & 10, “For the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as His child. <sup>7</sup>As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? . . . <sup>10</sup>For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in His holiness” (NLT).
  - The word “clean” in John 15:3 is the same word translated as “prune” in John 15:2 — [καθαίρω, kathairo] as we saw earlier.
- (c) The pruning process \_\_\_\_\_, but the fruit—\_\_\_\_\_—is well worth it. There is no pruning without \_\_\_\_\_. God the Gardener’s pruning or disciplines hurts but God is more interested in our \_\_\_\_\_ than in our \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. I must \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- “Abide” — it appears \_\_\_\_\_ times in the first 11 verses of chapter 15. “Abide” is the Greek New Testament word [μένω, meno]. It describes an action that remains where it is, continues in a fixed state, or endures.”
- + Acts 1:8, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (NASB).
- + John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (NASB).
- + Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (NASB).

### 5. I must know that I am genuinely \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:6).

### When We Abide In Christ There Are 3 Benefits We Get

#### 1. Jesus says His \_\_\_\_\_ will abide in us (John 15:7).

- Jesus is saying that when we get His Word in our lives, \_\_\_\_\_ become part of our life and we enjoy His \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

#### 2. Jesus says we will abide in His \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:8-10).

- What did Jesus tell us to do so that we can abide in Him? Obey Him as He \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3. Jesus says His \_\_\_\_\_ will abide in us (John 15:11).

- + Hebrews 12:2, “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (NASB).
- Jesus had a joy that could endure a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- + Nehemiah 8:10, “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (NLT).
- + Philippians 4:4, “Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy” (NCV).