

Scripture: John 15
Singing: 273:1, 2, 6, 7 – 218:1, 5, 6 – 339:1-4 – 317:1-4

Introduction: The image of the Vine

A. Israel was God's vine (Ps. 80; Isaiah 5)

B. Jesus is God's True Vine (John 15:1)

I AM the True Vine

The Union of the Vine and the Branches (1)

I. The necessity of the union II. The rich implications of this union

I. MEANING OF THE UNION OF THE VINE AND BRANCHES

A. Before the Vine comes the Husbandman (vs. 1)

1. God the Father provided His Son as the Vine (2 Cor. 1:3; Eph. 1:3; Is. 42:1)

2. The heavenly Husbandman's purpose in the Vine: *much fruit* (vs. 8)

a. He applies His 'vine-dresser' skills to produce more fruit (vs. 2-3, 6)

b. The fruit He seeks: Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4; 1 Thess. 4:3a

B. Jesus is the *I AM the True Vine*

1. Picture His deep roots – strong trunk – copious branches

a. The Vine is secret of the fruit of holiness

b. holy living is defined as

- a moral life yet far more than that

- a separated life as well as a consecrated life

2. Jesus emphasizes the *key to the Christian's abundant fruitfulness*

a. to abide in Him (vs. 4-9)

b. to do nothing apart from Him (vs. 4-5)

C. What is Jesus' message for us?

1. If you are *unsaved sinner*, you need to come to Jesus X

a. We have all become a *dead branch* in Adam (1 Cor. 15:22)

b. Only hope for real change: *to become a branch in the Living Vine*

● by the work of God (Ezek. 16:6; Eph. 2:1-10)

● by faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Heb. 10:39)

2. If you are believing follower, you need to abide in Christ for more fruit

a. What is 'more fruit' look like in Jesus' own life?

b. How can we be like Him in this holiness?

● by abiding in Him through relying upon Him (vs. 4)

- by abiding in Him through His word abiding in you (vs. 7a)

- by abiding in Him through prayer (vs. 7b)

c. All this will be enriched deeply when we grasp the rich implications of our union with Him (for next week, DV)

Worthy Saying to Ponder

You will never get far for God when you live far from Him.

To be little with God is to be little for God. (E. M. Bounds)

To wait on God is to live a life of desire toward Him, delight in Him, dependence on Him, and devotedness to Him. (M. Henry)