



=I AM SERIES=

**"I AM" THE TRUE VINE
John 15**

INTRODUCTION: When Jesus mentioned the true vine, He was certainly talking in a language that the Israelites could understand. The national emblem of the Jew was the vine. They knew what He was talking about; and for Him to say, "I am the true vine," was to say, "I am really your king. Your most important kingdom is My kingdom."

- I. **JESUS IS THE "TRUE" VINE.** John 15:1, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." This implies that there is a false vine. The false vine is the Devil. Revelation 14:19, "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God." This means we belong to one vine or the other, and we bring forth the one kind of fruit or the other kind. Either we belong to the true vine, which is Jesus, and bring forth good fruit, which is souls; or we belong to Satan's vine and bring forth bad fruit.

- II. **THE CHRISTIAN IS "IN" THE TRUE VINE.** In John 15:2, look at the words, "in me." John 15:2, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Those who are in Christ are part of the true vine. We are the branches, and He is the vine. The word "in" is very important here. When a person is saved, he is baptized into Christ. I Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In that verse, the word "in" is the same as the little Greek preposition "into." We go into Christ, which means we are secure in Him and we are in Christ. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Notice the words, "in Christ."

- III. **DEGREES OF FRUIT BEARING.**
 - ❖ Fruit. John 15:2b, "and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it."
 - ❖ More fruit. John 15:2c, "that it may bring forth more fruit."
 - ❖ Much fruit. John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

These are the degrees of fruit a Christian can bear. However, notice John 15:8, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." The only way we can glorify God is to bring forth "much fruit." (Teacher, ask the pupils what bearing they are doing. Is it fruit, more fruit, or much fruit?)

➤ **Notice how we can increase our fruit bearing.**

- A. **To bring forth fruit, we must abide in Christ.** The word “abide” here is the same word that is used in John 14:2a when Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions.” In other words, to bring forth fruit is to have our mansion now. It is a premature taste of Heaven. If we abide in Him, we bring forth fruit.
- B. **For us to bring forth more fruit, He must purge us.** John 15:2, “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” This is like the pruning of a tree. Jesus prunes us. In other words, He takes things away from us. As we give up sins and as He takes sins from us, we can bring forth more fruit. (Teacher, remind the class to turn from whatever sin is in their lives. Ask them to think what sin they should give up for Christ so they can bring forth more fruit.)
- C. **To bring forth much fruit, we must abide in Him and He in us.** John 15:5, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” To bring forth “fruit,” we abide in Him. To bring forth “more fruit,” He purgeth us. To bring forth “much fruit,” He abides in us as well as we abide in Him.

- IV. **IF WE BRING FORTH NO FRUIT, HE CASTS US INTO THE FIRE.** John 15:6, “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.” This does not mean that He sends us to Hell, but it means that He takes our lives. In other words, if we do not bring forth any fruit, He will take us on to Heaven. He will not allow us to continue to live if we bring forth no fruit.

CONCLUSION: There are four states in which a Christian can find himself: no fruit, fruit, more fruit, much fruit. In which state are you?