

The Vine and the Branches

Introduction:

- A. It is popular to wear T-shirts and jewelry and display buttons and stickers to show faith.
- B. Such signs prove little. - Matthew 23:5
- C. There is a true test of discipleship. - John 15:1-8
- D. How can we be true disciples of Christ?

I. What is the meaning of this metaphor?

A. the Vine

- 1. Israel was a figure of the true vine. - Hebrews 9:24; Jeremiah 2:21
- 2. Christ is the true vine. - John 15:1

B. the Husbandman

- 1. God the Father is the husbandman. - John 15:1
- 2. He cares for the vine and the branches. - John 15:2
- 3. The vine and the branches are for His glory. - John 15:8; 17:4; Ephesians 1:12

C. the Branches:

- 1. are not denominations.
 - a. no branches for hundreds of years
 - b. no fruit for hundreds of years
- 2. are individual disciples. - John 15:4-8
- 3. are all the same kind of branch. - Acts 11:26; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

II. We are true disciples if we glorify the Father. - John 15:8

A. We glorify the Father by bearing fruit. - Ibid

B. How do we bear fruit?

- 1. by being purged (pruned) - John 15:2-3; e.g., corn, Hope watermelons; Psalm 119:9; Ephesians 5:26; 2 Corinthians 7:1
- 2. by abiding in the vine - John 15:4-5; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 3:12-14
- 3. by His word abiding in us - John 15:7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

C. What fruit are we to bear?

- 1. good fruit - Matthew 12:33-35
- 2. the fruit of righteousness - Philippians 1:11
- 3. the fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23
- 4. the fruit of souls - Romans 1:13

Conclusion:

- A. What if we are not true disciples? - John 15:2,6
- B. What if we are true disciples of Christ? - John 15:7; 4:35-36
- C. Friend, are you a true disciple of Christ?