

John 15:1-17

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 3-23-22

V. 1 contains the final "I am" statement in John, the only w/ an addition, "and my Father is the Vinedresser"

- Vine imagery is common in the ancient world
- In the OT, the vine is a symbol for _____, the covenant people of God (Ps. 80:8-16; Isa. 5:1-7; 27:2ff.; Jer. 2:21; 12:10ff.; Ezk. 15:1-8; 17:1-21; 19:10-14; Ho. 10:1-2; et al.)
 - The emphasis is always on the vine's _____ to produce good fruit
- Jesus is the true and better Israel, the one producing fruit the Vinedresser desires
 - He is the _____ of the people of God
 - To be a part of the new covenant people of God, one must be "____" Jesus

Ch. 14 introduced mutual indwelling (F/S, S/believers, 14:20). Ch. 15 continues the idea w/ vine imagery

- Implications?
 - We derive _____ from him
 - The fruit is _____
 - He is our _____
- The Father's work as Vinedresser (=v. 2):
 - He _____ away: Making a branch more fruitful than it already is
 - Removing anything that stunts growth/inhibits the fruit production
 - Cf. Heb. 12:4-11: painful, but good
 - He _____ away: Making room for living, fruit-bearing branches
 - For branches that are _____ (no longer connected to the vine)
 - Cf. Matthew 24:9-13; Luke 8:13; Romans 11:22; I Cor. 10:12; Colossians 1:21-23; I Timothy 1:19; II Timothy 2:11-12; Hebrews 6:4-6; James 5:19-20; II Peter 2:20-21
 - Keep in _____ with the Father's work in pruning
 - John's theme of perseverance: God is working in believers from beginning to the end and his grace is sufficient (6:37-39)
 - There is _____ in God's grace! (10:28)
- The Father works diligently in those connected to his son to produce fruit and persevere
 - The condition: Those who are _____ to his Son

Notes:

V. 7 (cf. v. 16b) - Concerning the relationship of prayer to abiding and fruitfulness

- The indwelling word of God results in _____ to Christ
 - Harmony with God's purpose → prayer answered "according to his will" (I John 5:14-15)
- John Wesley: "Prayers themselves are a fruit of faith, and they produce more fruit." Results (v. 8):
 - "My Father is _____"
 - You "_____ to be my disciples"
- What described Jesus' relationship with the Father describes _____
 - "In"ness + seeing & hearing = glorification

The vine/branches metaphor has limitations

- Vines/branches on their own are _____ things
 - Yes: Organic connection, life/nourishment/vitality/fruitfulness, mutual indwelling
 - But the vines & branches are not _____
- V. 9 as restatement of 14:20: "The communion I share w/ the Father, I share with you"
 - God's reality becomes our reality

To abide in God's love is not sentimentalism

- 15:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments"
- 14:21 - "The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me"
- 15:10 → We remain in Jesus love the same way he remained in his Father's love: _____
- Love is the wellspring of obedience. Obedience is the _____ for remaining in it, as well as the demonstration of its reality.
 - Obedience is not the condition of God's love, but of continually _____ in God's love
- The relationship between obedience and freedom
 - Worldly concepts:
 - Jesus redefines obedience as an expression of _____
 - Not "restriction," but loving _____ (Luke 22:42)
 - Jesus trusts the Father's innate and absolute _____
- Vv. 14-15 → not slaves, but friends
- Obedience expresses trust that his boundary lines are always for my good and his glory
- Obedience is the _____ of love, and love is its _____
 - Salvation ≠ mere declaration, but union/participation

Notes:

Implications of v. 17

- You can't love Jesus and not love the _____
- To love Jesus ____ to love the church
- Persons giving themselves away for the other: the image of the _____