### John

## Chapter 15

1[He then said:]  
  
 ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the cultivator.  
  
 2‘So He’ll remove any branch in me that doesn’t produce fruit, and He’ll clean up all those who do produce, so that they can bear more fruit.  
  
 3‘Now you’ve already been cleaned by the things that I’ve told you… 4So stick with me, and I’ll stick with you!  
  
 ‘For just as a branch can’t produce fruit unless it remains on the vine, you can’t either, unless you remain in me.  
  
 5‘Yes, I’m the vine and you’re my branches. So those who are in me (and I in them) will produce much fruit. But apart from me, you can’t do anything.  
  
 6‘For when someone doesn’t remain in me, his branch will be removed and wither. Then men will gather up such branches and throw them into the fire, where they’ll be burned.  
  
 7‘However, if you remain in me, and if the things that I tell you remain in you, then you can ask for anything you want and it’ll happen!  
  
 8‘My Father is glorified when you keep on producing much fruit and you continue to prove that you’re my disciples. 9So in the same way that the Father has loved me and I’ve loved you, remain in my love.  
  
 10‘Yes, if you’ll obey my commandments, you’ll remain in my love, just as I’ve obeyed the commandments of the Father and I’ve remained in His love.  
  
 11‘Now, I’m telling you these things so that you can share in the joy that I have, and so that your joy can grow.  
  
 12‘And this is what I’m commanding you:  
  
 ‘Love each other just as I’ve loved you!  
  
 13‘No one has greater love than a man who will lay down his life for his friends, 14and you’re my friends – as long as you keep on doing what I’m commanding you!  
  
 15‘I’m not calling you slaves, because a slave doesn’t really know what his master is doing. Rather, I’m calling you friends, because I’ve told you everything that I heard from my Father.  
  
 16‘Understand that you didn’t choose me, I chose you… Yes, I appointed you! So, you must now go and produce fruit… Fruit that will last, so that whatever you might ask from the Father in my name, He’ll give to you!  
  
 17‘Yes, this is what I’m commanding you:  
  
 ‘Love each other!  
  
 18‘And know that if this world dislikes you, it disliked me first! 19If you’re from this world, the world will be fond of what is its own. But because you’re no part of this world – since I chose you out of the world – it won’t care much for you.  
  
 20‘Remember what I told you:  
  
 ‘A slave isn’t greater than his master!’  
  
 ‘So if they’ve hunted me down, they’ll also hunt you down… But if they’ve obeyed my words, they’ll also obey yours.  
  
 21‘So, they’re going to do all these things against you because of my name, since they don’t know the One who sent me. 22And if I hadn’t come and spoken to them, they wouldn’t be guilty of sin… But now they won’t have any excuse for their sins!  
  
 23‘Understand that those who dislike me, dislike my Father also.  
  
 24‘And if I hadn’t done things that no one else has ever done among them, they wouldn’t be guilty of sin. However, they have [in fact witnessed these things], and they’ve shown that they don’t care for my Father or for me.  
  
 25‘Yet, all of these things have happened so that the words written in [the Psalms] would be fulfilled:  
  
 ‘They disliked me for no reason.’ [Psalm 109:1]  
  
 26‘Now, when the Advocate that I’m going to send to you from the Father arrives – [that is,] the Spirit of Truth which comes from the Father – that [one] will testify about me.  
  
 27‘And you’re also going to testify [about me], because you’ve been with me from the start.’