

Fruitfulness

John 15:1-17

Key Verse: 5

1. Read verses 1-3. Who is the vine? What is the relationship between the vine and its branches? Who is the gardener and what does he do to make the vine more fruitful? What does it mean to cut and prune? What should be our attitude toward this? What does verse 3 mean?
2. Read verses 4-5. What does this teach about the relationship between Jesus and his disciples (us)? What is the gardener's purpose in caring for the vine? What is Jesus' command and promise? Why is fruit-bearing so important? (8, Ge 1:28; Mt 7:16; Jn 15:16) What is the fruit God wants?
3. Read verses 6-8. Why is it essential that the branches remain in the vine? What happens to branches that become disconnected from the vine? How can we remain in Jesus the vine? (7; Col 2:6,7) How can we glorify God?
4. Read verses 9-11. How does Jesus reflect the Father's love? How can we remain in Jesus' love? (9,10,17) What is Jesus' example? What does Jesus say about joy? How can we be full of joy?
5. Read verses 12-15. What is Jesus' repeated command? How has he shown his love to us? How can sinners be Jesus' friends? What does it mean to be Jesus' friend? What can we learn from Jesus who made friends with all kinds of sinners? How can we imitate him?
6. Read verses 16-17. What does it mean to you and me that God chose us rather than our choosing him? Why does God choose people? Why should this one-sided grace of God not make anyone proud? (See 2 Sa 7:18,19)