Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study – August 5th, 2026

Study Series: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE: A Journey Through the Gospel of John
Part 26: Abide in the Vine | John 15:1-17 **Teacher: Minister Oludare Joshua Dada**
Fruitfulness, Pruning, Intimacy

Jesus starts this teaching by stating an ultimate reality: He is the ***True*** Vine. Not Israel, as the original audience would have believed, but Christ is the true Vine of God. He is the source of life and the image of the Father. Jesus calls every disciple, both ancient and present, to abide in Him, for without Him they can do nothing nor be of any use to the Father. Jesus models this in His own earthly life and ministry; all that He did comes from abiding with the Father. The disciple of Jesus must succumb to this truth, for by it, we not only abide in Jesus but we also enter relationship with the Father. The Father's objective in all this is for the branch (or the disciple) to bear much fruit and for all to see the glory of the Vine. In abiding with Jesus, we are empowered by Christ and pruned by the Father. Branches are not randomly grafted into a vine, but they are formed and find life through the root. The abiding life of Jesus is available to all men, but we must reckon upon the reality of who Christ is: THE TRUE VINE!

Christ the True Vine (v1-8)

Question: Why did Jesus consider Himself to be the **true** vine? What would the original readers of this account compare this statement to? (Use the Bible)

- **I am the True Vine, and my Father is the vinedresser (v1-2)**
    - Jesus presents Himself in contrast to the Israelites who were God's vine and vineyard to the world around them (Psalms 80:8-11). Because of their idolatry, they produced "wild grapes" (Isaiah 5:4) and became "the degenerate plant of an alien vine" (Jeremiah 2:21). Unlike them, Jesus says He is the true vine. He is the One who is pure and produces holy fruit to the Lord, extending Himself into the world that all may come to know the Father. Like John 14:6, Jesus' claim to this truth is that He is what nothing else is. He alone supplies life, and He is the way to the Father.
    - While Jesus is the Vine, God is the vinedresser. Within this context, Jesus communicates two truths:
        1. God is the owner of the vineyard. He is the One who planted the Vine for the sole purpose of bearing fruit, and He alone reserves the right to prune or cut away that which is not of use in the vine. The truth here is that God has a purpose for the Vine.
        2. All Jesus is, and all He has, comes from the Father. As a vine has no ability of its own, Jesus paints the picture of that reality between Him and the Father. All that is of the vine and the vineyard belongs to Him.
    - Whatever we may believe the fruit is, be it the fruit of the Spirit or the fruit of good works, the salient point is any branch that fails to serve its eternal purpose is discarded. Conversely, that which bears fruit is pruned to bear more.
- **I am the vine, you are the branches (v3-8)**
    - Jesus tells the disciples they have been cleaned or "pruned" because of the word that has been spoken to them. Pay attention to how this narrative intertwines the Father and the Son in Deity; God is He who prunes, but Jesus says they have already been cleaned by the Words that He spoke to them.
    - The call to abide is the central theme of this passage. To fully grasp this concept, Jesus tells us how we must abide and with Whom we will abide:

1. We abide by the Holy Spirit: Prior to His ascension, Jesus told His disciples that He would still be with them, and that would be possible through the Holy Spirit who would come after His ascension. In the Spirit abiding in us, we abide in Christ (John 14:16-17).
2. We abide with the blessed Holy Trinity: In abiding with the "Spirit of truth," we abide with Jesus. And in our abiding with Jesus, the Father prunes us. Interwoven in this truth is the ministry of the Trinity.

- Jesus now makes the central theme specific to them by restructuring this truth. He looks to drive home His point in saying that they are the branches, which could be countercultural to their historical belief of being the vine. As Christ set His relationship with the Father in context, He does the same for His disciples. They must look to abide if they are to continue in the ways He is leaving with them.
- How is the Father glorified? If we abide in Christ and His words abide in us, producing fruit. The Father then receives glory in our lives, and we prove/show ourselves to be true disciples of Jesus.

Abide in His love and keep His commands (v9-17)

Question: Why is there a sudden change from abiding to love? (Use the Bible).

Jesus has instructed these disciples that they must abide in Him, and in abiding, they are subject to the Father's pruning. In this way, they show themselves to be true disciples. However, the purpose of this abiding is to bear fruit, but it is not explicitly stated what that fruit is. Jesus turns the attention of His disciples to the fruit that evidences abiding: Love.

Love:

Jesus gives His disciples two commands, to abide in His love and to love one another however, one informs the other. The only way to love others, is to abide in His love and Jesus has built on that point up until this section of His discourse with the disciples and it reaches the climax in verse 9. What Jesus was after in the life of His disciples is that they would prove themselves to be His disciples by glorifying the Father which comes only by abiding in His love which produces the fruit of loving others how Christ has loved; laying down His life.

- Verse 9: Jesus anchors His love for the disciples on the fact that the Father first loved Him. He then gives an imperative for them to continue to abide in His love.
- Verse 10: The previous verse is an imperative that is built on their communion with Jesus up until that point. What Jesus is now making into a condition ("If you keep my commandments…" has to do with something in the future which we can deduce has to do with the end of time.
- Verse 11-14: What is this command? It is love for one another as He has loved them. The evidence of this love for one another finds its zenith in laying down one's life for another. For Christ laid down His life for His friends. And who are His friends? Those who are obedient to His commands and teaching. Those who would take Him at His word.
- Verse 15-16: Christ chose them, not the other way around as is the practice of the ancient times. He chose them for the sole purpose of bearing fruit and bringing glory to the Father.
- Verse 17: The sum total of abiding is to bear the fruit of loving others.

Conclusion:

The Israelites were the vine of God planted to be the way of salvation for all who drew near. In eating of their fruit, they would come into the experiential knowledge of YHWH. However, this was only a type of Christ who said He is the TRUE VINE who will bear true holy fruit for all to eat from and know God. This fruit was love, and it was this love that He had for us that made a way for us to be reconciled back to the Father by His sacrifice on the cross. The sacrifice is done, and we are still enjoying, freely, what Christ expensively did for us. But He has one request: abide in Him that we may bear fruit. This fruit is love which comes by way of abiding in Him. By this, the Father is glorified, and we prove ourselves to be the disciples that he chose, appointed, and died for.