ABIDE IN ME, Part 1
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ABIDE In Me

Part 1

John 15:1-17

This is the first in a series of three messages, based on John 15:1-17, part of Jesus' instructions for His disciples on their last night together. Three themes appear in this passage that are essential to fitting in with and fulfilling the purpose for which you were created:

- Abiding (remaining vitally connected to Christ, who created us and redeemed us)
- Fruitfulness (the metric of success God uses)
- Lifeflow (the nature and nurture of this eternal life Christ gives us)

Today, our focus will be the first theme: Abiding. What is the essential condition of life and fruitfulness in relationship to Jesus Christ?

Here's what He said:

John 15:1 *"I am the True Grapevine, and My Father is the Gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of Mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me.*

Roles and Relationships

Jesus began by establishing three roles involved in this wondrous saving relationship: *"I am the True Grapevine, and My Father is the Gardener.*

Jesus Himself is the Vine—the only True Vine, from which all children of God spring, the real and only Source of productive, victorious, God-honoring life. There is no other Savior. No one else can secure our eternal destiny.

Our Heavenly Father is the Gardener—who planned and planted the vineyard from the beginning, and who keeps and tends the Vine to this day. God is personally invested in this program! He is not distant or disinterested. It is His fatherly care which we have to thank for the providential support that has brought us to this day. He is up to something good, something big. And He personally insures that it will be done for us.