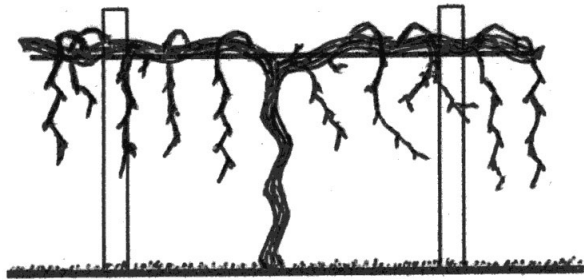


Work of the Vinedresser & Abiding in Christ

John 15:1-11

July 9, 2019; Jay Hohfeler



Branch = us
Vine = Jesus Christ
Vinedresser = Heavenly Father



I Am the True Vine

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Hebrews 12

⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reprov'd by him.

⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

GOD'S WORK as a VINEDRESSER	OUR ABIDING while under PRUNING
1. Judges unfruitful branches (unbelievers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitting to ambiguity• Seeing Jesus accurately, not ignorantly• Finding joy by drawing like never before
2. Prunes fruitful branches (believers)	

ABIDING WHILE UNDER PRUNING

1. Submitting to ambiguity



2. Seeing Jesus ACCURATELY not ignorantly

“The more we believe that God hurts only to heal, the less we can believe that there is any use in begging for tenderness. A cruel man might be bribed...But suppose that what you are up against is a surgeon whose intentions are wholly good. The kinder and more conscientious he is, the more inexorably he will go on cutting. If he yielded to your entreaties, if he stopped before the operation was complete, all the pain up to that point would have been useless. But is it credible that such extremities of torture should be necessary for us? Well, take your choice. The tortures occur. If they are unnecessary, then there is no God or a bad one. If there is a good God, then these tortures are necessary. For no even moderately good Being could possibly inflict or permit them if they weren't. Either way, we're for it.”

C.S. Lewis; [A Grief Observed](#)

3. Finding joy by drawing like never before

Group Discussion Questions

1. What times in your life (or, perhaps now) have you sensed God pruning you? In what ways is He changing you through it? Do you detect any recurring patterns in His pruning?
2. Have you experienced a time when you had little else to draw upon—except Jesus (the Vine)? Did you draw upon Him more or less during that time? What was it like?
3. Is there any encouragement for you in the work of the vinedresser (Heavenly Father) and the vine (Jesus)?