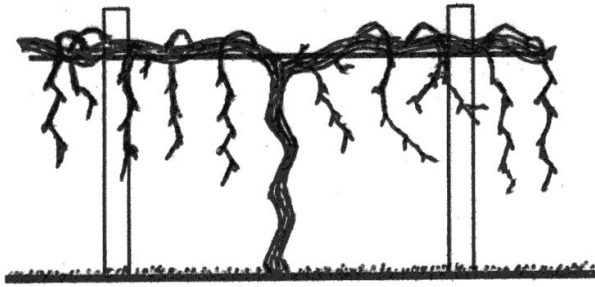


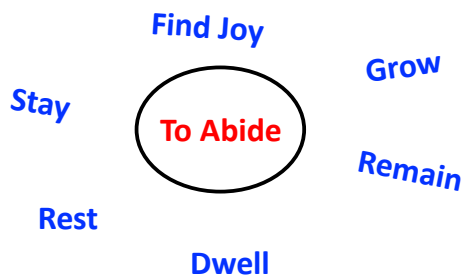
Work of the Vinedresser & Abiding in Christ (Part 2)

John 15:1-11

July 16, 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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

In order to abide with Him, we've got to have the:

- **KNIFE** of the Lord
- **LOVE OF** the Lord
- **VITAL CONNECTION** to the Lord (helpless)
- **WORD** of the Lord (knowing/obeying His commands)
- **JOY** of the Lord

KNIFE OF THE LORD

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)	

Purpose of pruning: To bear more fruit

LOVE OF THE LORD

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

VITAL CONNECTION TO THE LORD (helpless)

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.

WORD OF THE LORD (knowing/obeying His commands)

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.

JOY OF THE LORD

¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Sapping our joy. Sometimes, we just don't believe these clear statements from Jesus.

v4	As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.
v5	Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit
v5	I am the vine; you are the branches.
v9	As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
v2	every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
v7	If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
v10	If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love

Discussion Questions

1. Which of the above statements from Jesus is hardest to embrace for you?
2. Do you have something ahead of you right now that is tempting to handle alone—but is impossible to do with your own power?
3. What has been the most effective way to get Christ's Word into your life?
4. What prevents you from, sometimes, experiencing joy in abiding with Christ?
5. Has there been a season of time you've experienced real joy in abiding with Christ? How did it happen?