



# I AM (the True Vine)

John 15:1-17

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. A branch cannot produce fruit or even survive if it isn't vitally connected to the vine.
  - 1. Jesus is the true vine. We are the branches.
  - 2. "True" – objective reality; fact.
- B. That true vine, Jesus said, "I AM."

**The key to a fruitful life is to remain in the True Vine, Jesus Christ.**

## II. HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M CONNECTED? HOW DO I REMAIN IN HIM?

- A. The proof of being connected to Jesus is fruitfulness.  
*(John 15:1-8)*
  - 1. Where there is no fruit it's hard to know the identity of a plant.
  - 2. Not everyone who calls themselves a Christian actually is one. You have to inspect the fruit.  
*(Matthew 7:15-23)*
  - 3. The fruit of a Christian connected to the vine is Christlikeness.  
*(John 15:5-8)*

4. If you don't produce fruit God may cut you off (you're not really saved). If you do produce fruit He will prune you (clean you, lift you up) to produce even more.  
*(John 15:1-2)*

- 5. What kind of fruit will He produce in you?
  - a. Upward fruit *(John 15:5, 8; Matthew 5:16)*
  - b. Inward fruit *(Galatians 5:22-25)*
  - c. Outward fruit *(John 15:16-17)*
- 6. When God sees fruit He prunes us to be even more fruitful through the Word of God, circumstances and trials. *(John 15:3-4; James 1:2-4; Hebrews 12:11)*

## B. The means of remaining in Jesus is obedience to His commands. *(John 15:9-17)*

- 1. The key to abiding, remaining in vital fellowship with Jesus is in hearing and obeying His word.
- 2. We obey just as Jesus does. *(John 15:9-11; 1 John 3:21-24)*
- 3. The most important command is to love – to love God and others. *(John 15:12-17; Matthew 22:37-40)*
- 4. When you obey like this and love like this you remain in the vine and experience the joy of God's fruit being displayed in you.  
*(John 15:9-11)*
- 5. The true vine, Jesus said, "I AM"

## III. CONCLUSION

- A. Matthew 16:13-16
- B. That Christ, that Savior, that God, Jesus said, "I AM."