

A. John 15:1-8 – Abiding in Christ and bearing fruit

1. John 15:1 – To correctly understand this analogy, we must keep in mind the metaphor of Jesus as the _____ and the Father as the vinedresser. Isaiah 5:1-8
2. John 15:2 – In this analogy, all branches are believers because they are _____ the vine (in Christ). *Every branch in Me...*
 - a) John 15:2a – The vinedresser _____ *up* the branches that don't bear fruit to prepare them for fruit bearing. *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away...*
 - 1) *Takes away* (Greek AIRO) can mean to pick up (*bed*, Matthew 9:6; *serpent* Mark 16:18), to take up (*your* _____, Matthew 8:34), to get (retrieve a garment, Mark 13:16), to take away (as a bird takes away a seed, Luke 8:12, or a ruler who takes away money, Matthew 25:28) or several other meanings.
 - 2) Does the Lord here mean to *take* _____ a fruitless branch *from* the vine, or does He mean to lift it up *in* the vine? In a vineyard, a vinedresser only handles branches that are **not** bearing fruit. He lifts them up and ties them to runners in hopes of a bountiful harvest in due season.
 - b) John 15:2b – The vinedresser _____ (cuts on, gives trials or suffering to) the branches that bear fruit so they will bear *more* fruit.
3. John 15:3 – The disciples had already been purified at salvation by their faith in the word He had _____ to them (I will die for you and rise again.). Ephesians 5:26-27
4. John 15:4 – Just as a branch not attached to the vine cannot bear fruit, so also the believer cannot bear fruit apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, Jesus commands us to _____ in fellowship with Him.
5. John 15:5 – To abide in Christ is to _____ by faith on Him and His provisions for us (His grace). 2 Peter 1:3, Romans 1:17, Galatians 2:20b
 - a) Jesus Christ is the vine who produces the fruit that we as branches _____. The branch is completely dependent on the vine for life and fruit bearing. This analogy parallels walking by the Spirit as found in Galatians 5:16.
 - b) Apart from Christ and His enabling _____, we can do nothing to please God. Acts 21:19; Romans 5:18, 7:18, 25a; Ephesians 5:18b; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 3:5

- c) Elsewhere in Scripture, the spiritual _____ that Christ produces through us are called the *fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23) and are contrasted to the evil *works of the flesh*. Galatians 5:19-21
6. John 15:6 – The believer who doesn't abide in fellowship with Christ _____ his usefulness to God.
- a) A believer who doesn't abide in fellowship with Christ is as useless as a dried up branch that is thrown into the _____ and burned. The use of the word fire here does not say or mean that a believer is ever in danger of being burned in Hell.
- b) Just as fruitless branches are of no _____ in a vine, the believer who does not abide in fellowship with Christ will face discipline and loss of future rewards because of his lack of usefulness to God. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, 11:30-32; Hebrews 12:6
7. John 15:7 – God promises to answer the prayers of only those believers who are abiding in Christ and being filled with His Word. Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:15-17, Psalm 37:4, Proverbs 3:5-6
- a) Obviously, the believer who is filled with God's Word and abiding in Christ will not have selfish desires but rather those that agree with God's _____.
- b) The concept of abiding in Christ makes rational God's blank check _____ of *ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you*. Romans 8:26-27
8. John 15:8 – A believer does not have to bear fruit for God to be considered a _____ of Christ's family; he only has to believe in Christ as his Savior. John 1:12-13
- a) Our goal should not be to produce fruit but rather to _____ in Christ because abiding automatically produces spiritual fruit as a byproduct. Galatians 5:16
- b) If you want to bear abundant fruit that brings glory to God and proves that you are Christ's good disciple, _____ in the vine by depending on your Savior moment by moment. Galatians 2:20b