

# *Dead or Live Branch?*

**John 15:1-8**

East Berlin Community Church

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February 21, 2016

## Introduction

- Most of us desire a productive, fruitful life
- Tragedy of climbing the ladder of success, only to find it leaning against the wrong building.
- What evidence in your life that you are a genuine follower of Jesus?

## *Live or Dead Branch?*

### **A. A Live Branch—a productive, fruit-bearing Christian**

1. Identification of “fruit”
  - a. What is it NOT!
  - b. What is fruit?
    - 1) Christ-like Character—Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-8
    - 2) Christ-like Conduct
      - a) Praise and Thanksgiving—Heb. 13:5
      - b) Supporting others in love—Phil. 4:17
      - c) Holy, righteous, God-honoring behavior
2. Source of Fruit—being grafted into the “true” vine
  - a. Israel as God’s vine
    - 1) As the channel of God’s blessing—Ps. 80:8; Isa. 5
    - 2) Failed to produce good grapes
    - 3) As a result, judgment comes upon the nation
  - b. Jesus Christ as the “true” vine
    - 1) Fulfills Israel’s destiny—Psa. 80:14-18
    - 2) We, as branches, were grafted in—John 15:5; Rom. 11
    - 3) In this present age, the church is the channel of blessing
    - 4) Future age, Israel will once again be the channel for blessing—Zechariah 8:12-13, 7-8; Rom. 11:25; Zech. 14:4-5, 9; 12:10

### **B. A “Dead” Branch—NO fruit!**

1. Removed by God the Father, the vine-dresser—John 15:2a
2. Identification of the “dead” branches
  - a. Not apostate Christians who have lost their salvation—John 8:37-39; 10:27-29; 11:25-26
  - b. Not genuine, fruitless Christians—an impossibility
  - c. Professing, but not possessing Christians
    - 1) Such will always be present in the church
    - 2) Prime example: Judas Iscariot
    - 3) Warning about false prophets—Matt. 7:15. Known by their fruits.
    - 4) Ultimate fate—John 15:6; Matt. 13:49; 7:21-23