

In Christ I Am . . . A Branch

John 15:1-8

Neither our public reputation nor our personal perception defines who we are in Christ. The believer's proper view of self (self-worth, self-esteem) must be seen from their position in Christ.

Parts of the Picture

- I. _____ is the vine (1a, 5a)
- II. _____ is the vinedresser (1)
- III. _____ believers are the branches (2, 5-6)

Principles of the Preaching

- I. _____ in the vine (1, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- II. _____ to the vinedresser (1-5)
- III. _____ like true vine branches (6-8)
 - A. Fruitless branches are _____ (2a, 6)
 - B. Fruitful branches are _____ (2b-5, 7-8)

I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith, and love, and every grace;
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek, more earnestly, His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
And He, I trust, has answered prayer!
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour,
At once He'd answer my request;
And by His love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

Lord, why is this, I trembling cried,
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"'Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith.

These inward trials I employ,
From self, and pride, to set thee free;
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st find thy all in Me."