

Disciples: What are they Like?

John 15:1-16

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Review: A disciple of Jesus is a **constant apprentice**.

So, what are they like? They are like **branches connected** to the vine.

1. A disciple is born for **constant fellowship** with Jesus (Verses 1,5)
 - a. There is union and communion.
 - b. There is a mediated relationship.
2. A disciple undergoes **continuous cleansing** by the Father (verse 2)
 - a. Pruning is a process – sometimes a **painful one**
 - b. Pruning has a purpose – **increased** fruit bearing
 - c. Pruning is a **paternal prerogative** – no self-pruning
3. A disciple lives in **continual dependence** upon Jesus. (Verses 4-6)
 - a. Some branches are **barren** – attached but no fruit
 - b. Some branches are **bountiful** – attached with some fruit
 - c. Some branches are **broken off** – unattached without purpose.
*We must **abide to abound** – "a branch cannot bear fruit of itself." (verse 4)*
4. A disciple shows **consistent fruitfulness** through Jesus. (verses 7-8, 16)
 - a. Through faithfulness (abiding) prayers are sanctified.
 - b. Through fruitfulness **God is glorified**.
 - c. Through fruitfulness disciples are **identified**.
 - d. Through fruitfulness the world is **evangelized**. (verse 16)
5. A disciple enjoys **contented fulfillment** through abiding in Jesus Love. (verses 9-11)
 - a. Happiness is based on **happenings**
 - b. Joy is based on **Jesus**.
 - i. **Abide** in His love
 - ii. **Obey** His word
 - iii. Rejoice in His promise.

So:

Disciples **follow Jesus**

Disciples **stay connected**