

In the Shadow of the Cross Pt.6  
The Believers Relationship to Christ

John 15:1-8

- I. Jesus as the True Vine (vs. 1)
  - A. This is an I AM statement
  - B. Jeremiah 2:21
    1. Though they (as branches/born into the Jewish family) came from the Vine, they were not in the Vine.
  - C. God the Father tends the vine ensuring and insuring that those who are in the Vine remain on the Vine.
  
- II. The Vine Dresser and the branches (vs. 2-8)
  - A. Fruit bearers
    1. God will remove all things in a believers life that will hinder them from growing.
      - a) If it does not bring Him glory, He will remove it from your life.  
(1) Hebrews 12:1-11
      - b) Trust that he will do this in all Christian lives
    2. Abide (to stay) in the True Vine. Not to be saved, but to produce fruit (sanctification).
    3. Everyday that He works in us, He brings us into maturity.
  
  - B. Barren Branches
    1. Those who say, "Lord, Lord."
      - a) Matthew 7:21-23
    2. Those who tasted, but did not consume
      - a) Hebrews 6:4-8
  
- III. In conclusion, what is the fruit in your life? Examine yourself.
  - A. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
    1. Galatians 5:22-24