

Gospel of John
[Jesus, the True Vine (Part 3) (John 15:1-8, 16)]

-Seventh and Final 'I AM' Saying": I am the true vine" (vs. 1, 5)

-Metaphor: vine = Jesus; vinedresser = the Father; branches = disciples

-OT Background: Israel = Vine (Ps. 80:8, 9, 12-18; Ezek. 17:5, 6; Hos. 10:1)

-Significance: Jesus and His people are the New Israel.

-Observations:

- 1) At the heart of Christian discipleship is spiritual union with Christ (v. 5).
- 2) The presence of spiritual fruit is the indispensable proof of spiritual union with Christ (v. 5).
- 3) The production of spiritual fruit hinges upon spiritual union with Christ (vs. 4, 5, 7; see also John 8:31; Col. 2:6).
- 4) The production of spiritual fruit occurs through the Father's pruning activity (v. 2; see also Mark 4:5, 6, 16, 17; 1 Pet. 1:6, 7).
- 5) The production of spiritual fruit glorifies the Father (vs. 7, 8; see also John 14:13).

Practical Lessons

- 1) Beware of growing weary and fainting under God's pruning knife.
- 2) Plead with God that He will make you to be an increasingly fruitful disciple of Jesus.