

John 15:1,5 – Jesus Is the Vine

Pink, Morris, TSK, HebrewLexicon, Rienecker, Handfuls, Gill, Gray, Trapp, Godet, Robertson, Poole, PNT, Henry, Geneva, Godet, JFB, FFG, Calvin Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: Yes, Jesus is the **Bread of Life**, the **Light of Life**, the **Door of Life**, **the Good Shepherd who preserves life**, and the **Resurrection and the Life!**

But there is something more: **Jesus is the Vine of Life!**

Now I know you have enjoyed grape juice or aged grape juice in the past and it made you happy!

Before you enjoyed those grapes, they had to be **part of a branch** and that branch had to be **part of a vine**, not just attached, but it had to draw from the vine, and that **vine had to have sap** or the grapes would have withered and died.

And so too Christ! He is the Vine who supplies life to his children so they could have life and produce fruits.

Our headings are:

Jesus is the True Vine of Life

What are the implications of Jesus being the True Vine of Life

Our goals are: **That you will be thankful for the true vine, that you will draw from the vine so you will be productive, and that you will help other wild branches to be grafted into The True Vine.**

How is Jesus the True Vine of Life.

1 "**I am the true vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit **He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**

1. Jesus declared he was *the* True Vine who had come from his Father in heaven.

This was one of the easiest ways to prove his Divinity and show the Jews, that as **the God-man**, he was the perfect sacrifice for sins.

Israel was known for producing much grapes in the Jordan Valley.

Solomon even imported and introduced other varieties of grapes. **The product of these grapes was valuable** (lifesaving -as there wasn't a lot of fresh water), and it wasn't used to make grape jelly!

Also, **the Jews had just celebrated the Passover**, so this was a practical way for Jesus to continue to teach he was the source of life.

The definite article here confirms Jesus is the only True Vine.

2. How did Jesus, The True Vine, provide for the branches?

a. He provided sap for the branches so they would produce fruit. The branch is not the source of the fruit!

More, there was no weakness or barrenness in the Vine! Sap always flowed!

b. He pruned branches in order to help them to produce more fruit. Jesus wanted to make the fruitful more fruitful!

A farmer used a pruning knife, that caused some hurt, but caused an increase in production.

c. He remove unproductive branches. The unproductive vine then withered and was burned. These were those who pretended to be part of the vine, but were only there religiously, but not truly!

They were like parasitic plants.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

3. Jesus did not develop this doctrine out of thin air; this doctrine was alive and well in the Old Testament.

Look how Christ's people, who were joined to him, are described as the vine.

1 Corinthians 10 show that Jesus was the one who overshadowed them and nourished them on their journey.

Psalm 80: 8 **You have brought a vine out of Egypt**; You have cast out the nations, and planted it. 9 You prepared room for it, And caused it to take deep root, And it filled the land. 10 The hills were covered with its shadow, And the mighty cedars with its boughs.

In fact, **during the Maccabean period, Israel was represented on the Jewish coin as a vine!** This vine of the Lord was pure, but it became corrupt. It had to be clipped off from the True Vine.

Two examples:

Isaiah 5: 1 Now let me sing to **my Well-beloved, A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard:** My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes.

Jeremiah 2:21 **Yet I had planted you a noble vine,** a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?

Jacob spoke of the richness of Judah's descendant who would be rich with wine, bringing joy. Judah was a father of Jesus!

Genesis 49:11 Binding his donkey to the vine, **And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine,** And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

4. Jesus did not develop this doctrine out of thin air; this doctrine was alive and well in the New Testament

Jesus declared that the **fruit of the vine they drank** was his blood.

1Corinthians 11: 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

What are the implications of Jesus being the True Vine of Life

3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

1. That Jesus is the Vine and you are the branches picture a close, living relationship with the Lord.

It is not a distant relationship. It is not a master-slave relationship like other religions.

Note that Jesus is not the vine of denominations; Jesus is the vine of Christians.

So there are many different kinds of Christians and we are of one sap...the blood of Christ.

2. You must be *joined to Christ – the True Vine- to live – to receive his life-giving properties!*

This is what you need to become alive, **to be saved!**

You learn to die to yourself and receive the sap, which is the Holy Spirit of God.

3. You must *remain in Christ – the True Vine - to be sustained!*

God sustains you by his Son's blood, pictured by the fruit of the vine. This means you must receive sacraments and the Gospel of the cross!

God is the farmer who must prune you and you must not rebel against his pruning you, often with hardships!

This is what makes you produce more.

This includes you submitting to his discipline.

4. When you remain in Christ – the True Vine – you will *produce fruit to nourish others.*

Another picture of this is the tree of Psalm 1:3 that is planted by living waters...drawing that water and producing fruit. This is God's grace that is perfected or expressed in your life!

Of course this implies that you must be close to him...be fed by him...hold on to him...

Philippians 4: 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Galatians 5: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Ask yourself: Am I producing good fruits? Am I producing fruits of righteousness...the fruits of the Spirit, so others can receive them and live?

Draw from Christ, the True Vine, to do this.

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

5. Don't be contented with being in the same spiritual place, being in The True Vine; grow!

This may require that you put-off or clip off some things that are unproductive so you can bear more fruit.

Practically, what does this look like?

See if you are **spending too much time on things like the internet**, on **sleeping**. (These are good things, but must not be done in excess.)

See if you should stop spending time on things like **gossiping** or **wasting resources**.

(These are bad things which need to be stopped.)

Putting-off these things then opens up the door to be productive for Christ's kingdom in the future ...training to be a wife, a husband, a church leader, a Christian politician...

Produce fruit like the Egyptian fig that bears 7X per year.

6. If you remain in the True Vine religiously but not spiritually and do not produce, you will degenerate.

If your bodies are in church, but not your souls, you are useless (even harmful) to Christ and his kingdom.

There is no ground in Christianity for remaining still – for not growing in grace.

Ezekiel 15: 6 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I will give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem; 7 'and I will set My face against them. They will go out from one fire, but another fire shall devour them. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I set My face against them.

A useless vine is cut down and burned in fire. A soul that is dried up is useless.

1Corinthians 11: 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this

cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself,** not discerning the Lord's body.

7. You are not in an uncomfortable, isolated, or dangerous place when you are resting in The Vine!

a. You are with other “dependents,” so no one can claim to be better or look down on you!

b. You will be able to face opposition of any kind!

8. That Jesus is The Vine of Life proves that though you might have free will, you don't have free ability, for you need him; your will is limited!

Conclusion:

Jesus is the True Vine...the source and the sustainer of life.

He was sent by his Father to nourish the dead souls of this world.

Those who are not of or in the true Vine have no real life and are only fit for the fires of hell.

Beloved in the Lord:

1. Know the blessings you have in Jesus.

He strengthens you as his branch with his Word and Sacraments by his Spirit.

What more could you ask for? Nothing more!

The things of this world are becoming dimmer!

Produce an abundance of fruit – works of righteousness that brings praise to the Savior.

2. How you live your life reflects who your Savior is!

How well do people see the Savior in you?

Do you bring shame to him by your words and actions, or do you bring praise to him and cause others to ask, “How can I meet the one who has so blessed you?”

I hope it is the latter.

3. What about helping others to be grafted in? Call them to Jesus. He would graft them in, nourish them, and make them productive as well.

Finally, if you are not in ***The True Vine*** you will eventually dry up and be burned in the fires of hell. But God has a way out!

He is so loving, that though he could justly let you go to hell, he doesn't do that, but offers you a way out.

Jesus offers to graft you in to The True Vine so you can live.

He will make you good and graft you in!