

**How Truthful are we in Christ?
(John 15:1-8)**

Sunday 23rd January 2022

John 15:1-3

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

John 15:4-5

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:6-8

6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

A) TRUE VINE

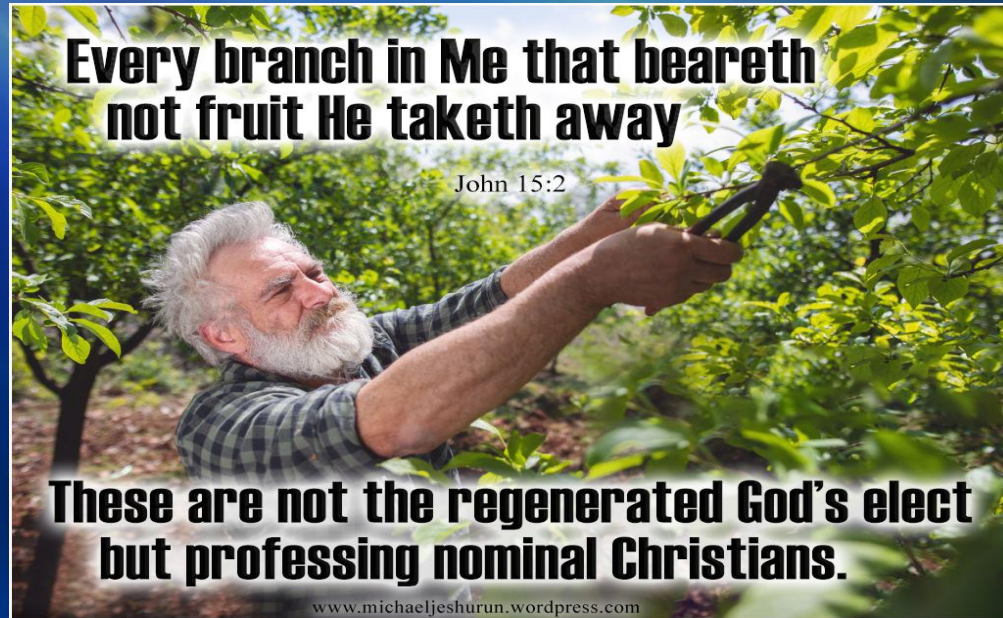
- * familiar symbol
- * The lowliness of a vine = Christ's humility.
- * an abiding and crucial connection between the vine and branches.
- * symbolic of belonging



B) TRUE CONNECTION

1. Fruitless branch - being cut off

- * appear to be connected
- * superficial connection
- * 'Judas - branches'
- * supposedly believed Jesus
- * seemed to be His disciples
- * so-called believers



B) TRUE CONNECTION

2. Fruit - bearing branch : being pruned and remained in the vine

a) Painful Process

b) Pruning Tools

c) A.k.a. Discipline

d) Development:

(i) abiding - remain in Christ

(ii) aligning - reset to 'up-right' mode

(iii) adjusting - reform



C) TRUE FRUITFULNESS

- * bear fruit
- * prune - more fruit
- * abide in Christ - much fruit
- * Is it Productivity? Or Success?





We are called to be fruitful - not successful, not productive, not accomplished. Success comes from strength, stress, and human effort. Fruitfulness comes from vulnerability and the admission of our own weakness.

— *Henri Nouwen* —

AZ QUOTES

A scenic view of a mountain range with a train on a track in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and partially covered in snow, with a clear blue sky above. The foreground shows a green, grassy slope. A train with orange and white cars is moving along a track that runs diagonally across the lower part of the image.

**In a strange way the spiritual life isn't
"useful" or "successful." But it is meant to
be fruitful. And fruitfulness comes out of
brokenness.**

~ Henri Nouwen

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C) TRUE FRUITFULNESS - Gal.5:22-23, MSG

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard — things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

FRUITFULNESS IN CHRIST

The more we draw near to Him...
the deeper we abide in Him,
the longer we spend time with Him...
the more impact His Word upon our heart..
as we yield to live by the Spirit...
the fruit of the Spirit become evident in our lives.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

love,
joy,
peace,
patience,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
gentleness,
and self-control



Galatians 5:22-23

FPBC

* BELIEVE

* BELONG

* BLESS

* BECOMING CHRISTLIKE