



Fruit begins with and in _____.

“To believe that Jesus is ‘I Am’ is to believe that in him God encounters people.”

–Craig Koester, The Word of Life

John 15:1–10 (NRSV)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.

Where do we fit in?

“...I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit...”

John 15:5 (NIV)

“[A congregation] is the material substance in which all the Spirit’s work takes place—these people, assembled in worship, dispersed in blessing. They are so ordinary, so unobtrusively there; it is easy to take them for granted...”

–Eugene Peterson, Under the Unpredictable Plant

What does it mean to be a branch on the true vine?

1. You and I get to be a part of a harvest that is already flourishing, already taking place in our very midst.
 - a. Jesus uses these “I am” statements in a very moving way to say that it is one thing to _____, but it is another to _____.
 - b. ...*I am the way, the truth, and the life...* John 14:6 (NRSV)
 - c. If _____ is the way and the truth, _____ is the life.
2. Abiding is an invitation into relationships.
 - a. We are called to _____, not to _____.
 - b. The risks of using “in the name of Jesus”

What would it look like to live in a world
where we can accept who we are as branches
and quit trying to be the vine?

3. Jesus reveals a God who provides undeserved sustenance, even when we fall short of bearing fruit.
 - a. As God is our vinegrower, God is our _____.

Drawing it all together...

- Jesus’ ministry is the pivot around which fruit can be _____.
- Bearing fruit involves a giving of _____.
- Change or transition is God’s opportunity for us to _____ and _____.

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30–31 (NIV)