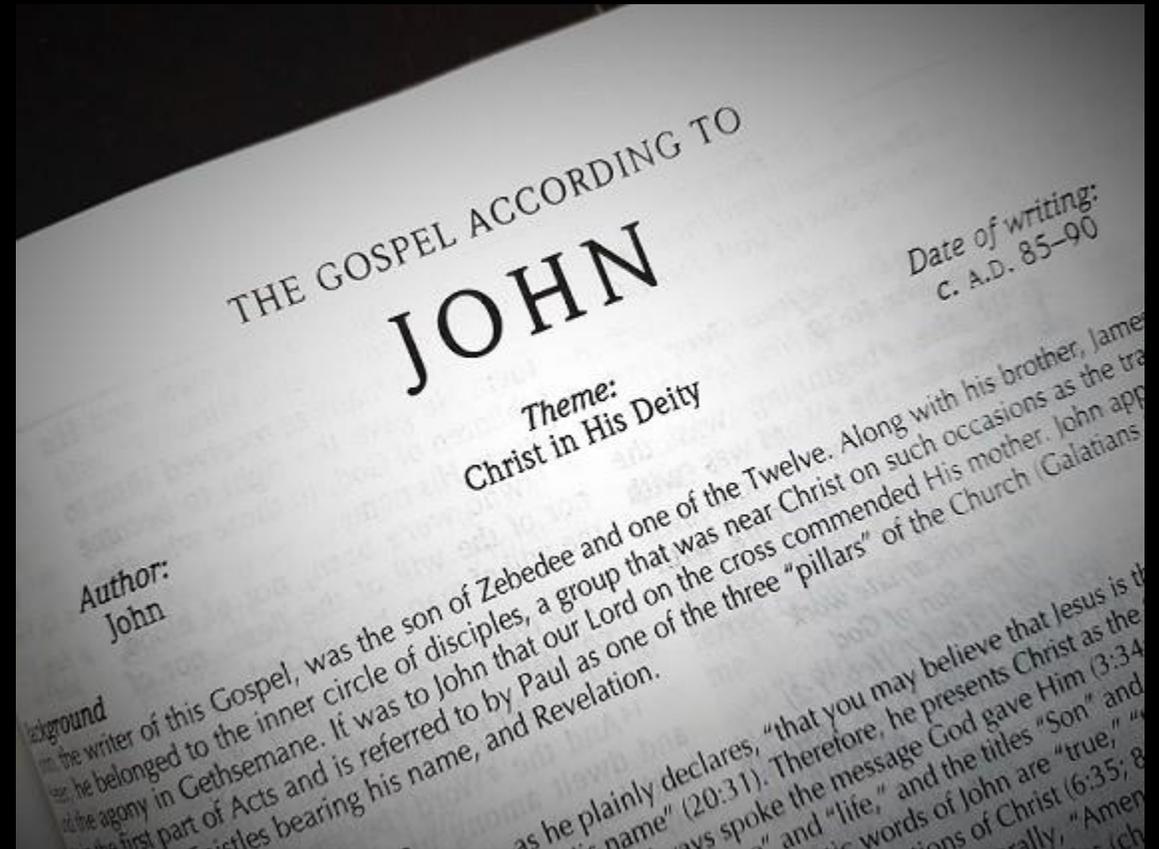


Verse by Verse

John 15



Previously in John

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- In **John 12** Mary of Bethany anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume.
- In **John 13** we saw Jesus wash the feet of his disciples.
- He also gave them (and us) a new commandment, “Love one another as I have loved you.”
- Last week, in **John 14**, he declared himself to be “the way, the truth and the life.”

“I am” Sayings in John

“I am” Sayings in John

1. I am the bread of life 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world 8:12, 9:5
3. I am the gate (or “door”) 10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd 10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life 11:25
6. I am the way, the truth and the life 14:6
7. I am the true vine 15:1

John 15 Introduction

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- In this chapter Jesus gives us the illustration of the vine and the branches.
- It reminds us how absolutely essential it is for us to stay closely connected to him.
- This chapter's lesson deals with abiding in Christ.
- We will see something of what that means today.

John 15 Key Verse

John 15 Key Verse

- John 15:5 (ESV)

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15 Outline

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1. The Vine and the Branches 15:1-6
2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11
3. Love One Another 15:12-17
4. The World's Hatred 15:18-25
5. The Helper 15:26-27

1. The Vine and the Branches 15:1-6

1. The Vine and the Branches 15:1-6

- 15:1 I am the true vine
- Jesus begins here and spotlights our absolute requirement to stay connected with him.
- Abiding in Jesus is not optional.

1. The Vine and the Branches 15:1-6

- What is the fruit in question?
- Mainly, I believe it is the fruit of the Spirit, such as we find in Galatians 5.
- That fruit is contrasted with the works of the flesh.
- Another way to see it is a contrast between obedience and disobedience.

1. The Vine and the Branches 15:1-6

- Galatians 5:19-25 (ESV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh [aka *disobedience*] are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God ...

1. The Vine and the Branches 15:1-6

- Galatians 5:19-25 (ESV)

... ²² But the fruit of the Spirit [aka *obedience*] is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

1. The Vine and the Branches 15:1-6

- If you see the **fruit of the Spirit** being produced in your life, you have reason to thank God.
- You may also expect **pruning** from the Father, which can be painful.
- God does this in order to cause **more fruit (v.2)**.

2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11

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 1. His words need to abide in us (v.7).
- We make that happen when we abide in his word.
- John 8:31-32 (ESV)

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11

- What does it mean to “abide in Christ”?
- 2. We then need to keep asking (v.7), so that God can answer our prayers – prayers informed by his word.

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- 2. We then need to keep asking (v.7), so that God can answer our prayers – prayers informed by his word.
- 1 John 5:14 (ESV)

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

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3. Further, we need to abide in Christ’s love (v.9).

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- 1 John 4:16 (ESV)

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11

- What does it mean to “abide in Christ”?

4. We express our love toward Christ through obedience (v.10).

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- John 14:15 (ESV)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11

- What does it mean to “abide in Christ”?
 1. His words need to abide in us (v.7).
 2. We then need to keep asking (v.7), so that God can answer our prayers – prayers informed by his word.
 3. Further, we need to abide in Christ’s love (v.9).
 4. We express our love toward Christ through obedience (v.10).

2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11



The thought of what the vine is to the branch, and Jesus to the believer, will give new force to the words, "Abide in me!" It will be as if He says, "Think, soul, how completely I belong to thee. I have joined myself inseparably to thee; all the fulness and fatness of the Vine are thine in very deed. Now thou once art in me, be assured that all I have is wholly thine ..."

*– Andrew Murray (1828 – 1917)
South African Pastor, mission*

2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11



... It is my interest and my honor to have thee a fruitful branch; only Abide in me. Thou art weak, but I am strong; thou art poor, but I am rich. Only abide in me; yield thyself wholly to my teaching and rule; simply trust my love, my grace, my promises. Only believe; I am wholly thine; I am the Vine, thou art the branch. Abide in me. ¹

*– Andrew Murray (1828 – 1917)
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2. Abiding in Christ 15:7-11

- When we are completely dependent on Jesus and completely committed to his will, we abide in him.
- The **end result** – the evidence – of abiding is **fruit (v.8)**, with an emphasis on **joy (v.11)**.

3. Love One Another 15:12-17

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- Remember this?

- John 13:34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

3. Love One Another 15:12-17

- Love toward our brothers and sisters in Christ can be summed up in “laying our lives down for them.”
- There is no greater love than that (v.13).
- That is what Christ did for us.
- That is how we love one another.

3. Love One Another 15:12-17

- 15:15 The natural result of loving and obeying Jesus is greater intimacy with him and his Father.
- We know what they are doing.

3. Love One Another 15:12-17

15:16 Take note of the progression in bearing fruit.

- 15:2 fruit, more fruit
- 15:5 much fruit
- 15:8 much fruit
- 15:16 fruit, your fruit should abide

3. Love One Another 15:12-17

15:16 I believe this also relates to how the church has the capacity to multiply.

- From the Parable of the Sower in **Matthew 13:23**,

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

4. The World's Hatred 15:18-25

4. The World's Hatred 15:18-25

- This passage is difficult – as in, difficult to hear.
- But it isn't complicated.
- When we love Jesus, obey his word, and love one another, we will also receive hatred from the world.
- We have to be okay with that.

4. The World's Hatred 15:18-25

- When we are rejected by the world, we can take heart in the fact that we are chosen by Christ.
- **John 15:16** (ESV)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

4. The World's Hatred 15:18-25

- When we are rejected by the world, we can take heart in the fact that we are chosen by Christ.
- **John 15:19** (ESV)

If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

5. The Helper 15:26-27

5. The Helper 15:26-27

- None of this abiding, fruit-bearing and loving one another can happen without God's Holy Spirit.
- He fills us, empowers us and grows us in our faith.

5. The Helper 15:26-27

- Acts 1:8 (ESV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

John 15 What We Just Read

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John 15 Key Points

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1. The more firmly we are connected to Jesus, the more our lives will bear fruit.
2. Abiding in Christ is the key.
3. We abide in him by means of the word of God, prayer, obedience and love for other believers.
4. Christ's friends will receive hatred from the world.
5. We become Christ's witnesses through the Holy Spirit who indwells us and connects us with him.

John 15 A Prayer

John 15 A Prayer

- Dear Lord Jesus,
- We submit ourselves to you as our Savior, our Redeemer and our Lord.
- As the branches need the vine, we understand that our spiritual life depends completely on you.
- Without you we can do nothing.
- We ask you to produce fruit in our lives by means of the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

John 15 A Prayer

- Let that fruit transform our personalities so that we become more and more like you.
- Help us to be strong and faithful witnesses for you in the face of the world's hatred.
- And let us experience your joy regardless of what we face here on earth.
- In your name we pray,
- Amen

John 15 References

1. Andrew Murray, *Abide in Christ* (p. 11). Kindle Edition.