

# The True Vine

## John 15:1-5

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS PLANTED IN AN UNDERSTANDING THAT IT ALWAYS BEGINS WITH JESUS

*“I am the vine, and you are the branches.” John 15:5*

The disciples all knew the basic truth of the vineyard –  
everything begins with the vine

Without a vine, no branches

Without branches, no fruit

Without fruit, no vineyard

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS PLANTED IN AN UNDERSTANDING THAT IT ALWAYS BEGINS WITH JESUS

When it comes to spiritual things, everything begins with Jesus  
Jesus is the source of life itself

*“All things were made through Him, and without Him,  
nothing was made that was made.” John 1:3*

Jesus is the source of eternal life

He is the only way to be right with God

He is the only One who can forgive sins

*“For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”* Psalm 103:11-12

The forgiveness of sin leads to everlasting life

*“He who has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.”* 1 John 5:12

The vine is God's symbol of reconciliation

The vine was the thing that people depended on to make their lives right with God

In the upper room, Jesus made it personal –  
“*I am the true vine”*

Jesus says that if you are depending upon any other source to give you hope, direction, or assurance, you are wasting your time

It always begins with Jesus

# BECOMING A BRANCH OF THE VINE MEANS DEPENDING ON JESUS ALONE

Everything God provides flows from your dependence upon Jesus

One of the signs of real spiritual maturity is a growing dependence upon Christ, not a growing independence from Christ

Instead of believing you have power in reserve, you depend upon His constant faithfulness to you

# STRENGTH AND STABILITY ARE FOUND IN THE TRUE VINE

Apart from the true vine, branches cannot withstand storms or drought or hardship

Living in a dependent relationship with Jesus is about exchanging His strength for your weakness

Those who choose to live without Christ have sacrificed the power that can only come from a vital connection to Him

# JESUS IS THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE VINE

*“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12

How can I declare Christ alone so confidently?

Because I am not the one who said it; **He is**

*“I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by Me.”* John 14:6