

CHRIST'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

The Gospel of John: The Deity and Teaching of Jesus Christ

"Life That Bears Fruit"

John 15:1-4 NKJV

"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. [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.

Main Points

1. Christ alone is the _____ of true _____ (v.1)

2. The Father actively _____ our _____ (v.2)

3. Cleansing comes before _____ (v.3)

4. Abiding is the essential _____ for _____ (v.4)

Instruction (2 Tim 3:16): What is God telling me?**Inspiration** (Romans 8:16): How is the Holy Spirit moving me?**Imitator of Christ** (Ephesians 5:1): How will I serve God by imitating Jesus?**My prayer this week:**

Discussion Questions:

1. Verse 2 describes the Father's actions toward branches that bear fruit and those that do not. What does this reveal about God's role in both judgment and nurturing growth?
2. Verse 3 assures the disciples, *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."* How does this assurance prepare them for the command to abide in verse 4?
3. What kind of "fruit" is Jesus referring to—spiritual character (like the fruit of the Spirit), ministry impact, or both?
4. How does the vine-and-branch imagery illustrate the union between Christ and believers?
5. Why is it impossible, according to Jesus, to bear fruit apart from Him? What does this teach us about the nature of salvation and sanctification?

BIBLE REFERENCES

Colossians 2:6-7 AMP Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in [union with] Him [reflecting His character in the things you do and say—living lives that lead others away from sin], [7] having been deeply rooted [in Him] and now being continually built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude.

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Jeremiah 2:21 AMP [21] Yet I had planted you [O house of Israel as] a choice vine, A completely faithful seed. How then have you turned against Me Into degenerate shoots of a foreign and wild vine [alien to Me]?

John 1:4 AMP In Him was life [and the power to bestow life], and the life was the Light of men.

Galatians 2:20 AMP I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

James 2:17 AMP So too, faith, if it does not have works [to back it up], is by itself dead [inoperative and ineffective]. — True faith expresses itself in action that produce fruits.

1 John 2:19 AMP They went out from us [seeming at first to be Christians], but they were not really of us [because they were not truly born again and spiritually transformed]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out [teaching false doctrine], so that it would be clearly shown that none of them are of us.

Matthew 12:48-50 AMP But Jesus replied to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" [49] And stretching out His hand toward His disciples [and all His other followers], He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! [50] For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven [by believing in Me, and following Me] is My brother and sister and mother."

Matthew 5:16 AMP Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds and moral excellence, and [recognize and honor and] glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 7:16-20 AMP By their fruit you will recognize them [that is, by their contrived doctrine and self-focus]. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? [17] Even so, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the unhealthy tree bears bad fruit. [18] A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Therefore, by their fruit you will recognize them [as false prophets]. —Known by fruit

Acts 10:15 AMP And the voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed and pronounced clean, no longer consider common (unholy)."

Ephesians 5:26 AMP [26] so that He might sanctify the church, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [of God],

John 13:10-11 AMP Jesus said to him, "Anyone who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, and is completely clean. And you [My disciples] are clean, but not all of you." [11] For He knew who was going to betray Him; for that reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

Hebrews 10:22 AMP let us approach [God] with a true and sincere heart in unqualified assurance of faith, having had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

1 Corinthians 6:11 AMP And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].

Psalms 119:9 AMP How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping watch [on himself] according to Your word [conforming his life to Your precepts].

Galatians 2:20 AMP I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Psalms 1:1-3 AMP Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers [ridiculers]. [2] But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And on His law [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] meditates day and night. [3] And he will be like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season; Its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].

Philippians 1:9-11 AMP And this I pray, that your love may abound more and more [displaying itself in greater depth] in real knowledge and in practical insight, [10] so that you may learn to recognize and treasure what is excellent [identifying the best, and distinguishing moral differences], and that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ [actually living lives that lead others away from sin]; [11] filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God [so that His glory may be both revealed and recognized].

1 John 2:23-24 AMP Whoever denies and repudiates the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses and acknowledges the Son has the Father also. [24] As for you, let that remain in you [keeping in your hearts that message of salvation] which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you too will remain in the Son and in the Father [forever].