

I AM

Jesus in His own words

The True Vine

John 15:1-17 (NIV) 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. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will 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 a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is 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 given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

The Seven I am Statements of Jesus in John's Gospel

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| 1. I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35) | 5. I am the True Vine (John 15:1-17) |
| 2. I am the Light of the World (John 8:12, 9:5) | 6. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6) |
| 3. I am the Gate for the Sheep (John 10:7) | 7. I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25) |
| 4. I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) | |
1. This story is told hours before the Crucifixion, as Jesus leaves the Passover meal and heads to the garden of Gethsemane.
 2. The story teaches the priority of staying connected to Jesus.
 3. The story describes the roles of the God the Father and God the Son in securing believers.
 4. The story describes the responsibility of EVERY believer to abide with Christ.

1. Jesus is the Vine

1. The vine as a symbol of life was a **familiar** illustration of the Old Testament.
2. The vine is the source of spiritual **life** for the branches.
3. The vine is the provision for spiritual **health** for the branches.

2. The Father is the Gardener

1. God the Father is **caring** for the branches and **working** for their growth and improvement.
2. He **will** trim away all that lacks fruit and prune what is good so that you may experience that which is better.
3. God the Father **loves** you so much that He is constantly working to develop you into the best person you can be for His Kingdom.

3. Followers of Christ are the branches

1. Branches produce one of two things—**fruit** or **fuel**.
2. The focus of the branch is to be **vitality** connected to the Vine.
3. It is a sad thing for a person to be **spiritually alive** but not **healthy**.
4. God wants you to grow in **holiness**—sanctification.
5. God wants you to display Christ-like **attitude** and **actions**.
6. YOU CANNOT DO THIS BY TRYING HARDER. It happens when you **abide** in Jesus.
7. **Obedience** is proof of discipleship.

4. It is God's will for you to abide in Christ

1. Your **prayers** will be **answered**.
2. **God** will be **glorified** by your life.
3. **Love** will be **stimulated**.
4. **Joy** will **overflow**.

Abide with Jesus every day!