

## I am the True Vine

John 15

**John 15:1** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

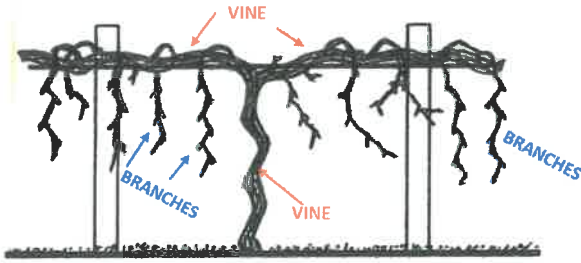
### Psalm 80

- <sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
<sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.  
<sup>11</sup> It sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.

### Isaiah 5 - The Vineyard of the LORD Destroyed

- <sup>5</sup> Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.  
<sup>3</sup> And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.  
<sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my  
vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?
- <sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
<sup>6</sup> I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briars and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
and he looked for justice,  
but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, an outcry!

Defining terms:



**Branch** = us  
**Vine** = Jesus Christ  
**Vinedresser** = Heavenly Father



## I Am the True Vine

15 "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 does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I 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. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.



## Hebrews 12

*<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?*

*"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.*

*<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives."*

*<sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant,  
but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness  
to those who have been trained by it.*



Old saying in Tyler Texas (Rose Capital of America):

*"If you want to prune your rose bushes right....have your neighbor do it."*

GOD'S WORK as a VINEDRESSER	OUR ABIDING while being PRUNED
1. Judges unfruitful branches (unbelievers)	1. Submitting to ambiguity (from God's hand)
2. Prunes fruitful branches (believers)	2. Seeing Jesus accurately, not ignorantly
	3. Finding joy by drawing like never before

“The more we believe that God hurts only to heal, the less we can believe that there is any use in begging for tenderness. A cruel man might be bribed...But suppose that what you are up against is a surgeon whose intentions are wholly good. The kinder and more conscientious he is, the more inexorably he will go on cutting. If he yielded to your entreaties, if he stopped before the operation was complete, all the pain up to that point would have been useless. But is it credible that such extremities of torture should be necessary for us? Well, take your choice. The tortures occur. If they are unnecessary, then there is no God or a bad one. If there is a good God, then these tortures are necessary. For no even moderately good Being could possibly inflict or permit them if they weren't. Either way, we're for it.”

C.S. Lewis; A Grief Observed

