John Lesson 39

Robert Harkrider · John 15:1–8 · Series: **John**

INTRODUCTION

- I am the true vine, and my father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh away.
- I am the true vine. I am the real and the genuine vine. If a man is going to have life, it'll only be through Christ Jesus.
- The unfaithful disciple is in no better position than the unbelieving Jew, or the unbelieving Muslim, or the unbelieving atheist.

1 One Must Be in Christ for Spiritual Life

John 15:4; Galatians 3:26–27

- The first one is that one must be in Christ for spiritual life. The man who is not in Christ cannot have life.
- Abide in me and I in you, as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- The only ones who have put on Christ are those who have been baptized into Christ.
- Only those who abide in Christ can bear fruit.

2 Either Bearing Fruit or Cut Off

John 15:2; Galatians 5:22–23; Matthew 25:41–46

- One must either be bearing fruit or else he is going to be cut off.
- It isn't enough just to have obeyed the gospel and to have become a Christian. Baptism is not the finish line. Baptism is the starting point.
- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance against such there is no law.
- Jesus here describes some who once were in him, but they can be cut off.
- The inactivity also will cause the Lord to have nothing to do with you and cut you off and cast you into the fire.

3 Individual Disciples, Not Denominational Churches

John 15:5; Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 1:10–13

- Jesus is here speaking about disciples, individual disciples. He is not speaking about denominational churches.
- I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.

- The Bible speaks only about one body, the body of which Christ is head, the one body which is his church.
- That ye all speak the same thing, that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- Christ is not divided. And Paul was not crucified for anyone. And people are not baptized into the name of Paul.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are we in Christ? Are we bearing fruit in him? Are we really working for him? Or are we worthy of being cut off and cast into the fire?**

MY NOTES