

Bible Study – I am the Vine...You the Branches

**15** “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.

Let’s discuss this rich content from Jesus...and apply to our lives:

1. Last week we talked about finding our life purpose in Jesus. What is your reaction to the statement by Augustine: ***“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”***
2. Some of Jesus’ statements seem to contradict, “We are saved by grace alone.” What does Jesus desire from his “branches”?

3. What is the difference between “servants” and “friends”? What do they say about your relationship with Jesus?
  
4. In verse 7 and verse 16 Jesus invites us to ask for “whatever you wish.” What qualifications does Jesus add? How well do we take advantage of this promise?
  
5. In verses 9-17, Jesus spends time sharing love from different angles and perspectives. Which of these is most striking to you and why?