



Abiding in Fruitful Pruning

John 15:1-4

January 6, 2019

I. The Vine

II. The Fruit

III. The Gardener

IV. Remain-Abide

I. The Vine

What does Jesus identify himself as in John 15:1?

What is Jesus' point in referring to himself as the **true** Vine? Why is it offensive to many today for us to say that there is only one way to salvation?

What is the message found in John 14:6, John 1:12, Acts 4:12?

Describe the intimate connection, in the plant world, between a vine and its branches. How does this apply spiritually?

II. The Fruit

What is fruit evidence of in John 15:1-4? How does Colossians 1:10 relate to this?

What does Matthew 7:17-19 tell you about fruit?

What kinds of "acts" does Galatians 5:19-21 tell us about? What is the result of having these acts rule our life according to Galatians 5:21?

How is the list in Galatians 5:22-23 referred to? How is this fruit realized?

Read the list that Peter gives in 2 Peter 1:5-8. What does verse 8 tell you about the evidence of these qualities in our lives? What is the result of these qualities?

III. The Gardener

Who does Jesus say is the Gardener in John 15:1?

What does John 15:2 tell us the role of the Gardener is?

What shows us how much the Gardener values the fruit in John 15:2?

Pruning — What do we need to cut out of our lives? Note Isaiah 59:2, Psalm 5:4

Pruning — How does focusing on the community of faith prune us? How does prayer do this? How does reading the Bible do this? How do the challenges we face in life do this?

IV. Remain-Abide

What does John 15:4 tell us is the key in bearing fruit?

What does it mean to *remain* or *abide* in Jesus?

What is the danger of defining "remaining in Jesus" as a number of activities or practices that we do?

How do the following four suggestions help us to remain in Jesus?

1. Saying "No" to Sin
2. Read and Reflect
3. Pray
4. Surrender