



**John 15: 5**

## **I Am The Vine**

*"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."*

Jesus grew up with those vines all around his little village. He knew how you had to cut the wood to get the productive plant. He used the whole vine and branch analogy in order to show us how it is to have Him as Savior and belong to Him.

Sometimes in meetings and discussions among Christians, I wish we would stop and ask, **"Where does Jesus Christ fit into all of this?"** Branches are grafted to the vine or they are no longer branches.

### **Jesus must be central.**

One of the great evidences of the aliveness of Christ in our churches and in our lives today is His centrality in all we do and say. The branch just can't survive without its source of life. So, too, our **family of God can't be alive and survive without Jesus being central in everything we do.**

As we go out into the community to tell the good news to others, we go and witness **because we love Him who loves us.** We go **because we know the joy of being in Him** and want to share that privilege with others. Amen!

As we serve in the church, singing in the choir, visiting with the outreach team, making prayer shawls, distributing food from the pantry, making quilts, serving on a committee, and praying, we don't do it for our own gratification, but for God's. **He is central; He is our vine, and from Him we get our life.**

A vital sign of the alive, risen Christ of Easter is that we branches are healthy and alive, too. When it is evident we are alive and responding to the vine, then it is obvious to all that the vine to which we are attached is very much alive.

### **We are to be in Christ and Christ in us.**

Jesus simply wanted us to know that we should keep close **to Him**, be with others who love **Him** and come to **Him** often. That way He could continue to provide us the strength, advice and love that we need in order to get

through our days. In other words, if we want to remain the **genuine** branch we need continually tap into the **genuine** vine.

It is when we remain **united to Him** that we are then capable of producing good fruit in our daily lives. When we are **united to Him**, then we can once more *forgive, love, have sympathy and compassion, serve others, understand, and continually do the good and right thing.*

### **Family Tree:**

The vine is like a family tree. We are part of that **family tree of God. One of the secrets of the life of Jesus was His constant contact with God, His Father.** Again and again, He withdrew into some solitary place to meet God.

Jesus was always united to God. It must be so with us as we unite to Jesus. We must keep contact with Him. This is the reason for regularly attending weekly worship and for daily devotions. It's the reason the church offers Bible study, Walks to Emmaus and revivals and other ways to continually deepen and strengthen our spiritual lives and our connection with the vine.

**Once we have been grafted to God the real vine** and have tasted of this spirited source of life, we'll never again be satisfied with the dry, withered life without that vine and the source.

Even as the heart pumps our blood out through arteries and veins, so **God wants to give from His heart life-giving strength to all of us.** And, too, He wants us to be the vital sign that He is also alive and here in this place.

**It is time to live in Christ and take our proper place as a branch of the vine of Christ.**