

READ

John 15:1-13

CONSIDER

It is fascinating, and quite miraculous, to study the organic parts of a plant and to understand how each component works and is connected to each other. In fact, every part has a vital function and purpose to be able to thrive as a living organism. From the roots which stabilize and anchor the plant into the ground, while drawing up essential nutrients and water, to the leaves in which convert sunlight into needed energy and fuel through the process of photosynthesis, the whole system works together for the flourishing of the whole.

In today's passage, Jesus uses a metaphor of a vine, branches, and fruit to describe the realities of life in Him. Though growing in knowledge and deeds are important, the primary focus for us who desire to follow Him is to remain in Him in the same way that a branch depends and must be connected to the vine. Our theology and ethics originate out of remaining in His presence and love. Through that bond, our inner soul is sustained and transformed through our life in Jesus, which also flows through us to produce fruit outwardly so that He would be known to those around us and that others would be blessed. As the Spirit works in and through us, the promise and evidence of fruit in our lives become a witness of God's faithfulness and the conduit in which He redeems and changes the world.

Pastor Jon Nip

PRAY

Lord Jesus, you are the true vine in which we have life and hope. Through your death and resurrection, we can be reconciled with you and redeemed to be your people in whatever place you send us to. Would you give us the desire and discipline to have a singular focus to remain in you as you are in us. God, would we trust in the ways in which you removed the dead branches, prune the living ones, and produce fruit in your way and time. We place ourselves into the hands of our heavenly Father, who is the perfect gardener, as He cares and tends to us for His glory and Kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIVING DEEPER

Read John 15:1-17

What is the significance of the word “remain” (v4)?

How does it connect with the theme of love?

According to this passage, what does it mean to be a disciple (see v8)?

How does this change the way you live?

How does this affect the way you would lead others/teach them to follow Jesus?

Click [HERE](#) for the complete sermon series Study Guide.