

## Gospel of John

[Jesus, the True Vine (Part 4) (John 15:9-17)]

-Seventh and Final 'I AM' Saying": I am the true vine" (vs. 1, 5)

-Metaphor: vine = Jesus; vinedresser = the Father; branches = disciples

-OT Background: Israel = Vine (Ps. 80:8, 9, 12-18; Ezek. 17:5, 6; Hos. 10:1)

-Significance: Jesus and His people are the New Israel.

-Observations:

- 1) At the heart of Christian discipleship is spiritual union with Christ (v. 5).
- 2) The presence of spiritual fruit is the indispensable proof of spiritual union with Christ (v. 5).
- 3) The continuing production of spiritual fruit hinges upon continuing spiritual union with Christ (v. 4).
- 4) The continuing production of spiritual fruit occurs through the Father's pruning activity (v. 2).
- 5) The continuing production of spiritual fruit glorifies the Father (vs. 7, 8; see also John 14:13).
- 6) The continuing production of spiritual fruit is promised to those who are in spiritual union with Christ, in answer to biblical prayer (14:13; 15:7, 8; 16).

-Jesus assumes His followers will pray (Matt. 6:6; 7:7, 8).

-Prayer is address to the God of the Bible (Neh. 2:4; 9:6; Ps. 62:8; Joel 2:32) through the mediation of Christ (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5). It includes adoration (Ps. 90:1, 2; 140:1, 2; Rev. 4:8), confession (Ezra 9:6; Ps. 51:4; Is. 6:5), thanksgiving (Ps. 75:1; 86:12; 118:1), petition.

-Conditions of the Promise: in union with Christ (15:7); through the mediation of Christ (14:13; 15:16); in accordance with the will of Christ (15:7; 1 John 5:14, 15); out of a life of obedience to Christ (Ps. 66:18; 1 John 3:22, 23)

Practical Lessons

- 1) Jesus chooses His followers to go and make disciples.
- 2) Jesus promises His followers success in prayer.
- 3) Jesus' followers are only those who are spiritually united to Him.