

Fifty series

Vine

**Message Text:** John 15:1-17

February 27/28, 2010

*Jesus has been our all-sufficient source for 50 years and He will continue to be so as we forge ahead.*

Know the Roles:

The Vine = Jesus

The Gardener = God the Father

The Branches = Followers of Jesus Christ

So What?

Pruning is for greater fruitfulness

Mutual abiding is the only assurance of fruitfulness

Word saturated wishes are answered

Glorifying God, proving His disciples, love one another

Fruitful living results from mutual abiding – Christ in us, us in Christ.

*Go Deeper:*

- 1) Think about the relationship of a branch to the vine/trunk. With that illustration in mind what would that kind of relationship between and Christian and Jesus look like for you?
- 2) If Jesus is never closer than when we are being pruned by the Father why does it hurt so much, and why do we resist so much? (v.1-2)
- 3) According to verse 4-5 if we are not bearing fruit what is the cause?
- 4) What is the result of not abiding in Christ? (v.4-6)
- 5) What do you think is involved in Christ abiding in you and you abiding in Christ?
- 6) What is the prerequisite of 'asking whatever you wish' and getting it? (v.7)
- 7) According to verse 9 why do we not abide in Christ's love?
- 8) In your estimation how well are we as Christians living out Jesus command in verse 12?
- 9) Why do you think it is sometimes difficult for Christians to love one another?
- 10) In verse 17 Jesus says He commands these things (v.1-16) "so that you will love one another." Why do you think Christians loving one another is so critical to Jesus?

*Next Steps:*

- I need to abide in Christ through spiritual habits like prayer, Bible study, and interaction with other followers of Christ. I will seek to put together a manageable plan this week and start doing it.
- God is pruning me for greater fruitfulness and I need to stop resisting Him and embrace that Jesus is never closer than when the Father is pruning.
- I am struggling to follow Jesus command to love one another. I will pray for His help and seek to reconcile with my Christian brothers and sisters who I am holding at a distance because of unresolved conflict.
- Write in your own: \_\_\_\_\_