

# Life on the Vine— You Are the Branches

John 15:1-8



## JOHN 15:5

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; **you are the branches.** Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Believers are connected to Jesus in a *permanent, living union* like that between a vine and its branches.



*Jesus Christ, the True Vine, calls you  
to be and do just one thing:  
**be his branch and bear his fruit.***

1. The Vine and its branches picture our ***complete consecration*** to Christ.

- The branch has but one reason it exists—*it has **just one job***—to **bear fruit** for the vine.
- *So the believer has but one reason for his existence on earth*—that the Heavenly Vine may bear his good fruit through his branches.

Consider *this high honor* Christ has bestowed upon you: *All the fruit produced by a vine comes through its branches.*



- Christ has *chosen to work through you*.
- He's in *heaven*.
- You are on *earth*.
- *Whatever fruit he now produces* on earth comes through those of us who are his branches.

We abide in Christ as branches of the Heavenly Vine by *surrendering our wills*, our *interests*, our *lives* to Christ.

- You lose your own life so that you may live only in His.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## Colossians 3:1–3

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When the Lord taught us how to pray, his model prayer in Matthew 6 begins and ends by focusing us on **God's will, God's kingdom, and God's glory.**

“Our Father, who art in heaven, **hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,** on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For **thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,** for ever. Amen.”

- *Who is the king in your little kingdom?*
- *Whose will is done?*
- *Whose glory is sought?*



- *Who is the queen in your little kingdom?*
- *Whose will is done?*
- *Whose glory is sought?*



A committee of ministers in a certain city was discussing the possibility of having Dwight L. Moody to serve as the evangelist during a citywide evangelistic campaign.

One minister who did not want to invite Moody stood up and said: ***“Why Moody? Does he have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit?”***



There was silence. Then an old, godly minister spoke up: ***“No, he does not have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit; but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly on D. L. Moody.”***

## 2. The Vine and its branches picture our *perfect conformity* to Christ.

- The branch is like the vine in every way—it is part of the *same plant*, shares in the *same life*, and does the *same work* as the Vine.
- The branch is a *perfect likeness of the Vine*.
- They are *inseparably one*.

- The difference between them is that the *Vine* is great and strong, and the **source** of strength.
- The *branch* is little and feeble, and constantly in need of the life and strength supplied by the Vine.

- Believers are **made one** with Christ.
- He **shares** his divine life and nature with us and we are **transformed** into his image.

Romans 8:29

<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Jesus prayed that we might share in his life with the Father.

John 17:20–23

<sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Peter said that believers participate in the divine nature of Christ.

2 Peter 1:3–8.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- As the *branch* is a perfect likeness of the vine, so the *believer* is, and is to be, the perfect likeness of Christ.
- Note that Colossians 3:3 says, your life is “hidden with Christ” and 3:4 says, Christ “is your life.”
- In other words, there is such a close connection between the life of the believer and the life of Christ that we can be said to share in the very life of Christ in heaven.

### 3. The Vine and its branches picture our *complete dependence* upon Christ.

John 15:4–5

<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> . . . for *apart from me you can do nothing.*





The branches *have everything* the vine provides to them, *but only* what the vine provides to them.



When you were saved, you were **grafted** onto Jesus the True Vine!



- Believers are called to a life of **complete dependence** upon Christ.
- Every moment of every day Christ supplies everything we need, but apart from him we **are** nothing, **have** nothing, and **can do** nothing.
- Without him you will **not bear fruit**, and you will **have no real spiritual life**.

## 4. The Vine and its branches picture our *unwavering confidence* in Christ.

- The branch does not have to worry about drawing up moisture and nutrients from the soil.
- The vine **provides everything** it needs.
- It only has to **yield** itself and **receive**.
- So Jesus, through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, supplies everything we need.

- No commands an empty glove to pick up a tool and go to work.
- The glove has a palm, a thumb, and four fingers—it has the shape and form of a hand.
- But by itself, it is unable to do what I command it to do.



- But if a **strong man** puts his **hand** inside the glove, it changes everything!
- ***The glove becomes as strong as the hand.***
- Everything that is possible for the hand becomes possible for the glove.
- The glove clothes the power of the strong man's hand.



- That is what it is like to have Christ, by His Holy Spirit, living in you.
- You are his glove; Christ is the Hand!
- What is *possible for Him* becomes *possible for you*.



# Application

- *First, **believe** the wonderful promises* that Jesus the Heavenly Vine makes about being a branch that abides in him.
- Second, ***completely surrender** your **life**, your **will**, and your **interests** to him. Just ask him. **Ask** him to ***fill you with his Holy Spirit***. Ask him to ***live in and through you***.*
- Third, ***begin to act on your faith***. Begin to act as if you really believe that Jesus is doing what he promised to do, and that you are living in his strength and power.



*“I am a living branch of Jesus Christ the Heavenly Vine. I am **attached** to him and **abide** in him. Because his life and strength flow into me, I bear his good fruit. Every moment his Holy Spirit empowers me to **think** what Jesus thinks, **say** what he says, **do** what he does, and **be** what he is, to the glory of his name.”*