

John 15:1

The work of a vinedresser.

The life of a grape vine is the sap that flows from the trunk (the vine) to the branches which grow the grapes. The vinedresser is one who helps grape vines grow lots of good grapes. The vinedresser does this by pruning (cutting off) the branches from the grape vine that will not grow good grapes in the coming season. This pruning (cleaning out) of unproductive branches helps the vine produce more and better grapes. The unfruitful branches that are cut off from the vine, fall to the ground, dry up, and are gathered and burned.

(1)

Think about [John 15:1, 5](#).

(Jesus said to his students) *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ... I am the vine; you are the branches."*

- In this figure of speech, to whom does Jesus compare the different symbols.

Think about [John 15:2-3](#).

(Jesus said) *"Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, he (the vinedresser) takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."*

- In the above figure of speech, what does the symbol of fruit represent?
Consider [Philippians 1:9-11](#) (the apostle Paul's words to Christians). *It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*
- What does the Vinedresser do to the branches that do not bear fruit? (See John 15:2-3 quoted above.)
- What does the Vinedresser do to the branches that do bear fruit? (See John 15:2-3 quoted above.)
- What does the Vinedresser want from the branches?
Consider [Galatians 5:22-25](#). *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; ... If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

- How had Jesus's students been made clean – free to produce good fruit? (See John 15:2-3 quoted above.)

Consider [Luke 8:4-15](#). (Jesus said) *"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, ... some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold. ... The seed is the word of God. ... As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience."*

(2)

Think about [John 15:4-6](#).

(Jesus said) *"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. 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. If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned."*

The meaning of this word "abide" is: continue to stay; remain; depart not from.

- What is necessary in order for a believer in Jesus to bear good fruit?
 - What can one do to continue to stay in Jesus?

Consider [1John 2:22-24](#), & [4:15](#). *Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, ... No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ... Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*
 - What good thing can be accomplished by someone who is separate from Jesus? (See John 15:4-6 quoted above.)

Consider [Matthew 5:13](#) (Jesus said to his students) *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."*
 - What happens to anyone who does not remain rooted in Jesus? (See John 15:4-6 quoted above.)
-