

September 12, 2021
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
John 15:1-11

“The True Vine”

Discussion Questions & Application:

1. According to John 20:30-31, why did John write his Gospel? What does it mean to believe? What does it mean to have life? What kind of life? What quality of life? Share with one another when you “believed” in Jesus and the difference it has made in your life.
2. John 13-17 is often called “The Farewell Discourse of Jesus” (His final teaching to the disciples before He was crucified). It was given to the disciples privately to prepare them for their public ministry after He departed. What did Jesus do and say in chapter 13 that would have been shocking to the disciples? How would this prepare them for their public ministry? How does it help you persevere in ministry nearly 2,000 years after Jesus departed?
3. John 13-14 was in the Upper Room. It appears John 15-17 occurred on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane (see John 14:31). They would have seen vines and branches along the way. Why does Jesus say “I AM the TRUE vine” in 15:1? What is the significance of “I am”? (See 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 14:6) What is the significance of “true”? Who or what else was known as “the vine” at that time? (See Is. 5:1ff; 27:2-6; Ps. 80:8-9; Jer. 2:21). What “false” vines were available to the disciples? What false vines are available to us today? What is the danger of attaching ourselves to false vines to be fruitful (successful)?
4. What does it mean to “abide”? [Hint: think of the word abode] Why would they be tempted not to abide in Jesus in the coming days? Who had already made the decision not to abide in Jesus? Why? There are a lot of people who profess to believe in Jesus and appear to be following Him for a period of time (see Mt. 13 – Parable of the Soils), but at some point, they stop following Him. Have you ever been tempted to stop following Jesus? What are some reasons why a person might stop following Jesus? What reasons can you find in the text as to why we MUST continue following Jesus? What will happen to those who don’t ultimately abide in Him?
5. Some choose to not abide in Jesus at all (unbelievers). But does the word abide only apply to the moment of salvation (justification)? How does abiding in Jesus impact our sanctification (growth in holiness)? How does it impact our ability to bear fruit? What kind of fruit is evident if we are truly abiding in Jesus? What did Jesus mean when He said that apart from Him we could do “nothing”? Do you believe that? What is the evidence of that in your life and ministry?
6. How much time do you spend with Jesus each day? What are you specifically doing on a daily basis to abide in Jesus? Is it a priority? If not, why not? What is coming in the way of you truly abiding in Jesus?
7. If we are abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit, what does the Father (vinedresser; farmer; gardener) do to us? Why does He do this? What are some specific ways He might prune (clean) us? How has the Father been pruning you lately? Are you joyfully cooperating with Him in the pruning process?
8. List all of the characteristics you can find that Jesus said would be true of a disciple that was abiding in Him? Are these true of you right now? God is desirous of bearing much fruit in your life. What is your part in that process (see Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:5-11).
9. Set aside MUCH TIME every day this week to be with Jesus. Say NO to other things so you can draw near to the Lord and He can draw near to you. Ask Him to prune you, cleanse you, fill you with His Spirit and truth, and bear much fruit through your life.
10. Memorize John 15:5. Recite it daily and remind yourself that you need Jesus for everything.