

PROMISES *for* PILGRIMS

BLOOD-BOUGHT PROMISES FOR PILGRIMS,
ON THEIR WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND.

A Sermon Series On: The Farewell Discourse & Final Prayer of Jesus | John 14-17

The Promise of Productivity | John 15:1-17

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All of us are bearing fruit. It is the visible evidence, through our words and actions, of what we believe in our hearts. So, how can we produce good fruit that is pleasing to God? Jesus answers that question in this passage with a promise of productivity (or fruitfulness) for those who are trusting in Him. He also promises that His followers will be pruned to increase their fruitfulness, and He explains the chief responsibility we have in producing good fruit.

We are all bearing fruit (Galatians 5:16-26).

There is fruit produced by the Spirit of God at work in those are trusting in Christ, and there is fruit produced by chasing after the desires of the flesh.

The Four Participants

- 1. The true vine – Jesus (15:1)**
- 2. The vinedresser – God the Father (15:1)**
- 3. The unfruitful branches – false followers (15:2, 6)**
- 4. The fruitful branches – true disciples (15:2-17)**

Two key activities that accompany our bearing of good fruit:

1. God's work of pruning us

2. Our abiding in Christ

Dependence

Obedience

Questions to Consider

- 1.** Why did Jesus use the word "true" in describing Himself as the true vine?
- 2.** The reality of unfruitful branches can be a heartbreaking one. You may know someone who professed faith in Jesus Christ, but who later went away from Jesus and the gospel. How does the New Testament address this reality of those who falsely profess faith in Christ? Is there someone who has walked this path that you are praying for God to save?
- 3.** How is God's cleansing of believers a work that is both complete AND ongoing?
- 4.** Are there areas in your life where you are experiencing God's pruning; things you say, think, or do that weaken your capacity for bearing good fruit? How have you experienced God's pruning?
- 5.** Think about the list of synonyms for abiding in Christ: Abide, remain, stay, dwell, lodge, continue, be steadfast, persevere, and wait. How should this look in practical terms in your everyday life? How are you remaining in Jesus Christ at work? At home?
- 6.** In what ways does the temptation toward self-sufficiency tempt you away from humble dependence on Christ?