

“The Vine and the Branches”

John 15:1-8

Introduction

- I. One of the responsibilities of a Christian is the bearing of “fruit”.
- II. It is an indicator of the faithfulness of a child of God.
- III. In order to bear “fruit” effectively, we must understand our relationship to Christ.

Discussion

- I. The Christian must abide in Jesus Christ.
 - A. We must remember that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.
 - B. Disciples of the Lord are branches (John 15:5-6).
 - C. You cannot be attached to the vine without becoming a Christian (importance of obeying the Gospel; Rom. 1:16).
 - D. There is no bearing of “fruit” away from Jesus.
 - E. In order to abide in Jesus, the Christian needs to do certain things.
 1. Keep studying and obeying the Word of God (Rom. 10:17; James 1:22ff.).
 2. Walk after the similitude of Jesus (1 John 2:6).
 3. Walk worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:9).
- II. The Christian must endure “pruning”.
 - A. Being “pruned” involves the disciplining and “refining” of the Christian (1 Pet. 1:6-7).
 - B. Each Christian should faithfully endure “chastening” (Heb. 12:6-11).
- III. The Christian must remain faithful.
 - A. If a child of God does not remain faithful, then he will receive the consequences (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 14:10-11; 21:8).
 - B. We can forsake the Lord (Gal. 5:4; cf. Demas [2 Tim. 4:10]).
 - C. The reward for faithfulness will be well worth it (Matt. 25:34; Eph. 1:11-14; Col. 3:23-24; Titus 3:7; Acts 20:32; Rom. 8:17).

Conclusion

- I. Are you attached to the “Vine”?
- II. Are you actively bearing “fruit”?