

# Be a Fruitful Follower of Christ

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1. What does Jesus do to the branches that don't bear fruit?
2. Discuss the experience of doing things without being connected to Jesus. What is it like to be pruned?
3. How are we going to get what we deserve (v. 7)? What needs to be true of our desires?
4. How do we get job (v. 11)? How does this compare with people who want to do right only if they feel like it?
5. What does Jesus call us in verse 14? How does that relationship impact you?
6. What is Jesus saying about persecution in verses 18-25?
7. Who is the Helper? How does He help?

<sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

<sup>9</sup>As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

<sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, that you love one another.

<sup>18</sup>If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup>But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. <sup>22</sup>If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup>He who hates Me hates My Father also. <sup>24</sup>If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. <sup>25</sup>But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

<sup>26</sup>But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. <sup>27</sup>And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

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## Sorrow Turned to Joy

**Read: John 16:1-33****Monday**

1-6 — How comforting do you find Jesus' words in these verses? Why do you think that the disciples did not ask where He was going? What are some things that you do when sorrow fills your heart?

**Tuesday**

7-13 — What are some things that the Holy Spirit does? How does verse 12 apply to our lives? Think about ways we try to play the role of the Holy Spirit when it comes to convicting others?

**Wednesday**

14-18 — What is the role of the Holy Spirit concerning Jesus? What are some examples where people get that turned around? Jesus confused the disciples; what is an example of when you were confused concerning what God said or did?

**Thursday**

29-33 — What gave the disciples confidence? What was their claim? What would be their actual response (v. 31)? Think of a time that your performance was greatly lower than you originally expected or claimed. What caused that? How did you feel?

**Friday**

23-28 — Why is it important to ask of the Father in the name of Jesus? How is our joy full? Why do you think Jesus spoke in figurative language? List some advantages that you would have if you went to the Father.

**Saturday**

24-27 — Who is the "Helper"? What does the Helper do? Take time to thank the Father for the Helper.