

THE VINE AND BRANCH RELATIONSHIP

John 15:1-10

Key Verse: 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read verse 1. Compare with Isaiah 5:1-7. What does this tell us about God's relationship to his people Israel? [Compare with Mark 12:1-11 and Eze 19:10.] What does Jesus mean when he says, "I am the true vine?" (compare Jn 1:1-3)
2. Who is the gardener? Read verse 2. What does it mean that we are branches, not the root or the tree? What is the gardener's purpose in planting and caring for his vineyard? (2,4,5; Ps 1:3) Why is fruit-bearing so important? (8, Ge 1:28)
3. Why does the gardener prune the vine? What does it mean that God cuts off our dead branches? What does it mean that he prunes the fruitful branches?
4. What is the good fruit that God wants? The bad fruit he doesn't want? What is his pruning tool?
5. Read the verses in which "remain" is found (4[4],5,6,7[2],9,10[2]). Why is it necessary to remain in Jesus? How can we remain in Jesus? (4-8; Ps 1:2-3; Col 3:16)
6. What does verse 7 teach us about remaining in Jesus and having his word remain in us? What is Jesus' promise? Read verses 9-10. What do these verses teach about how to remain in Jesus? What was Jesus' own example? (Heb 5:8,9)