

“WHAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO BEAR FRUIT?”

(John 15:1-5)

I. THE DEFINITIVE PASSAGE ON ABIDING AND FRUIT BEARING (John 15)

A. The Three PERSONS of the Vineyard (15:1)

1. The “*true vine*” is _____ (v. 1a)
2. The “*vinedresser*” (or gardener) is _____ the _____ (v. 1b)
3. The “*branches*” refer to _____ (v. 5)

B. The POSITION and the PURPOSE of the Branches (15:2)

1. “*Every branch in Me*” emphasizes the crucial truths of the believer’s _____ and _____ with Jesus Christ. (v. 2a)
2. Some believers in Christ...
 - a. do _____ bear fruit (v. 2b)
 - b. are bearing _____ fruit (v. 2c)
 - c. bear _____ fruit (v. 2d)
 - d. bear _____ fruit (v. 5)
 - e. have _____ fruit (v. 16)

C. The PRE-REQUISITE for the Branches to be able to Bear Fruit (15:3)

1. “*You are already* _____” refers to the fact that their sins had already been _____ (v. 3a; cf., 13:10; 14:20)
2. The reason for this was “*because of the* _____ *which I have* _____ *to you.*” (v. 3b)

D. The PRIMARY NECESSITY for the Branches to Bear Fruit (15:4-5)

1. The definition of “*abide*” is to _____, stay, or _____ in dependence on Christ as your resource for fruit bearing.

* Does this encourage passivity or irresponsibility?

2. The parsing of the verb “*abide*” is that it is an aorist, active, imperative; meaning you must _____ to make this your _____.

* Why is this given in the form of a command?

3. The need of abiding is highlighted by Christ’s statement, “*As the branch _____ bear fruit of itself, _____ it abides in the vine, _____ can you, _____ you abide in Me.*” (v. 4)

a. It is a fact that physically a branch _____ be separated from the vine and still bear fruit.

b. You must recognize that Jesus is _____ asking you to _____ fruit.

4. Jesus reinforces His teaching with a very blunt statement of absolute, “*for without _____ you can do _____.*” (v. 5)

* When should you begin to apply this truth in your own life?