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us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

b. Pruning that cuts back growing branches.

*John 15:2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while **every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.***

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### **Abiding—in His love (9), His commands (10), His joy (11)**

*John 15:9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now **remain** in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will **remain** in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and **remain** in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.*

Pg. 1: Nature; Purposes; Ways

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## **The Lesson of the Gardener, the Vine, the Fruit**

John 15

May 16, 2021

John 15 deals with the:

Nature of our relationship with God.  
Purposes of our relationship with God.  
Ways of our relationship with God.

**The context:**

*John 16:1 I have said all these things to keep you from falling away.*

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*John 15:11 I have told you this so that **my joy may be in you** and **that your joy may be complete.***

### **The Gardener: glory, Father, His purposes**

*John 15:1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

### **Fruit**

*John 15:2 He cuts off every branch in me that **bears no fruit**, while every branch that **does bear fruit** he prunes so that it **will be even more fruitful**....<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can **bear fruit** by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you **bear fruit** unless you remain in me.*

*John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will **bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me,*

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you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, **that you bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

## The Vine and abiding

John 15:1 "**I am the true vine**, and my Father is the gardener.

John 15:2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.<sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; **it must remain in the vine**. Neither can you bear fruit **unless you remain in me**.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you**, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> **If you do not remain in me**, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.<sup>7</sup> **If you remain in me** and **my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

"Remaining" -

## Pruning.

John 15:2 **He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit**, while **every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful**.<sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me **branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned**.<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Jesus is describing different kinds of pruning.

a. Pruning that cuts off dead branches (v. 2).

John 15:2 **He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit**...

Hebrews 12:5 ..." My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?<sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined