

<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 does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

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<sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

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<sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. —John 15:1-8 ESV

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The Vine

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**“I am the true vine...”**  
—John 15:1a ESV

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**Psalm 80:8**  
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**Isaiah 5:1-7**  
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**Jeremiah 2:21**  
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**Ezekiel 15**  
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**Hosea 10:1**

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**A Picture**

**The Vinedresser**

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**A Picture**

**The Branches**

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**I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. —John 10:28 ESV**

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**For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. —James 2:26 ESV**

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## **A Principle** “abide”

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**“The gospel is so much more than a plan of salvation for the lost. It is the water in which the Christian swims everyday.”**

**—Tullian Tchividjian**

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## **A Process** “pruning”—John 15:2

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**prune = cut or cleanse**

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**Viticulture...consists mainly of pruning...two principles are generally observed: first, all dead wood must be ruthlessly removed; and second, the live wood must be cut back drastically. Dead wood harbors insects and disease and may cause the vine to rot, to say nothing of being unproductive and unsightly. Live wood must be trimmed back in order to prevent such heavy growth that the life of the vine goes into the wood rather than into fruit.**

**When God prunes, we must remember...**

**Pruning is Essential**

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The vineyards in the early spring look like a collection of barren, bleeding stumps; but in the fall they are filled with luxuriant purple grapes. As the farmer wields the pruning knife on his vines, so God cuts dead wood out from among His saints, and often cuts back the living wood so far that His method seems cruel. Nevertheless, from those who have suffered the most there often comes the greatest fruitfulness. —Merrill Tenney

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When God prunes, we must remember...

## Pruning is Painful

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For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

—Hebrews 4:12 ESV

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For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. —Hebrews 12:11 ESV

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Iron sharpens iron,  
and one man sharpens another.  
—Proverbs 27:17 ESV

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When God prunes, we must remember...

## Pruning is Purposeful

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**<sup>2</sup>Count it all joy, my brothers,  
when you meet trials of various  
kinds, <sup>3</sup>for you know that the  
testing of your faith produces  
steadfastness. <sup>4</sup>And let  
steadfastness have its full effect,  
that you may be perfect and  
complete, lacking in nothing.  
—James 1:2-4 ESV**

28a.tif

**“Lord, let me make a difference for You  
that is utterly disproportionate  
to who I am.” —John Piper**

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**Examine yourselves, to see  
whether you are in the faith.  
Test yourselves. Or do you not  
realize this about yourselves, that  
Jesus Christ is in you?—unless  
indeed you fail to meet the test!  
—2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV**

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