



Connected

John 15:1-2 (ESV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² 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.

Connection is key.

Pruning is necessary for growth.

John 15:3-5 (ESV)

Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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.⁵ 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.

Your connection to the vine is due to Jesus, not because you are a great branch.

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

How do you abide?

- ◇ Prayer
- ◇ Reading the Bible
- ◇ Community of Believers
- ◇ Obedience
- ◇ Trust

What is the fruit I should bear? (Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:6-8)

Our lives should display evidence of our connection to Jesus.

What we pray for should reflect our connection to Jesus. (John 15:9-12)

Great evidence of our connection to Jesus is our love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV)

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

John 15:13-17 (ESV)

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants,¹⁵ for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Our connection to Jesus has elevated our position to friend.

To whom much is given, much is required.

Luke 12:48 (ESV)

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.