

1st John # 05

“Like a Vine and its Branches”

*John 15:1-2*

The filling of the Holy Spirit plus our human IQ equals our spiritual IQ plus a positive attitude toward biblical truth equals maximum glorification of God!

Our attitude toward the written Word is equal to our opinion of the Living Word, so what we think of Bible study is what we think of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

To say we love the Lord Jesus Christ and to remain indifferent to His Word is living a lie. Production in the Christian life depends on abiding fellowship with the True Vine.

The first Lord’s table or the Last Supper anticipated the cross and the *True Vine* speech anticipates the Church Age.

How long does it take for a grapevine to bear fruit? About 3-4 years to get grapes and 6-8 years for full production and so it is with the spiritual life, so don’t get discouraged.

Spiritual growth, unlike salvation is progressive from babe to toddler to adolescent to adult.

*All fruit production depends on biblical truth in the soul for instruction in righteousness.*

Everything a believer does by way of exhaling divine good is a branch bearing fruit or producing.

The confusion comes in because so many limit people by teaching that production is witnessing, praying, giving or faithfulness to the church but abiding is taking on the nature or character of Christ.

If there is sap; biblical truth in the soul of the mature believer, there’s fruit on the branch.

*If you have biblical truth in your soul, eventually, you’ll be a producer, so let not your hearts be troubled and don’t be discouraged.*

Just as sap is the life blood to the plant or tree, biblical truth is the spiritual life providing substance to the believer.

There’s a lot of wonderful ways a believer can depart from this life and the sin unto death certainly isn’t one of them.

*Recovery prevents scar tissue from accumulating in the soul and inhale and exhale removes it.*

We grow in and with Christ in abiding fellowship with Him like a vine and its branches!

We are of no effect without Him like a vine and its branches!

*We have no energy, power or support system without Him like a vine and its branches!*

We produce nothing of value without Him like a vine and its branches!

The love of God is contagious; you can’t give someone a cold or flu unless you’re a carrier and we can’t share God’s love unless we’re abiding in Christ as carriers.