

1st John # 04

“Abiding in the Vine”

*John 15:1-4*

**Only by abiding in Christ, can anyone hope to bear fruit and if we really love Him, we'll abide in obedience producing much fruit because we'll want to be in intimate fellowship with His love.**

TLJC had in His soul exactly what He said His disciples didn't have.

*TLJC is oriented to the plan of God just as His disciples are disoriented.*

**Viticulture from the Latin vitis/vine is the science, production and study of grapes and their cultivation; viniculture refers to grapes for winemaking.**

There are two types of pruning:

1. Dormant pruning; post-harvest in Fall

2. Growth pruning in Spring

*Jesus' point is not judgment or not even discipline but the importance of abiding in fellowship with Him to ensure pleasing production for the Father.*

The emphasis in John 15 is on certain believer's uselessness and not their destruction.

**So, John 15 teaches: TLJC is leaving His disciples and to produce or bear fruit as the Father desires, believers must continue to rely on the Son and heed His instruction or commands and if they choose not to abide or comply, there would be no fruit, no ministry or usefulness in the plan of God and hence, no rewards in Heaven.**

Abiding in TLJC is not the inevitable natural condition of all believers but it is the necessary condition for all believers, requiring years of study and understanding.

*The Judgment Seat of Christ is not our final exam; we are taking the exam right now and the Judgment Seat is our final grade, so our abiding relates to our standing before the sitting Judge.*

**So, fruit is character, what's produced in us or who we are and not activity or what we do.**

Fruit is measured by the filling of the Holy Spirit producing the fruit of the Spirit or the character and image of Jesus Christ in us and this production is the result of abiding in Christ.

**Ephesians 5:18 tells us we are to filled by the Spirit with something but it doesn't tell us what that is; Colossians 3:16 tells us we're being filled with the Word of God.**

It's the Word of God and the Spirit of God that bring us fellowship with God and they mature the child of God.