

**Theme:** Abiding in the Vine from which we draw life and strength, under the care of the Vinedresser, we are able to fulfill and delight in the command that was given in the garden to be fruitful, and to glorify God.

**Background:** What is the implication of John 14:16,23? Jesus begins to answer.

**Introduction:** The golden vine in the temple may settle a troubling question regarding 14:31 and 18:1. It is certainly the perfect setting for Jesus’ last “I Am” statement.

## I. The Abiding Vine (1)

### A. “I Am the True Vine”

1. The Last of the “I AM” statements!
  - The only one where the Father’s role is announced
2. Fulfilling an Old Testament image
  - a. Jesus claimed to embody the feasts and festivals of Israel
  - b. Use and image of the “vine” in the Old Testament
    - 1) Israel was called vine/vineyard in Old Testament
      - Isaiah 5:3-7; Ezekiel 19:10-14; Jeremiah 2:21; Hosea 10:1
    - 2) Israel failed to produce good fruit!

### B. The faithful vine

1. The true vine
  - Foreshadowed in Psalm 80:7-16
  - Israel itself was a “type” of the true vine that was to come.
2. Bearing fruit through his branches
  - Accomplishing what Israel could not

### C. The source of life

1. A shocking declaration for the Jews!
  - The vineyard is not established in the land, but in Jesus
  - God’s people must be attached to Jesus!!
2. Every image that Jesus has taken to define his person and work has had the same effect and purpose.

## II. Abiding In The Vine

### A. The work of vinedresser (2,6)

1. Getting rid of dead branches
  - a. The unbelieving Jews? Apostate Christians?
    - No. True believers are preserved to the end (6:37-40; 10:28ff)
  - b. Those like Judas? With Jesus, but not in him.

NOTE: That strain runs through the entire NT (cf. Matthew 7:22; 13:18-23; 24:12; 25:31ff; John 8:31ff; Hebrews 3:14-19; 1 John 2:19)
  - c. Burning the dead branches!
2. Pruning (Ouch!)
  - No living branch is exempt
  - The purpose is loving (Hebrews 12:4-11)

## B. Life from the vine

1. You are already clean
  - A clever wordplay – “Prune” and “clean” are from the same root
  - The word of the Word (logos) has already taken hold of them
2. The vine gives life to the branches
  - a. Apart from him you have no life. You can do nothing (5b)
  - b. You must abide to bear fruit
    - We don’t bear fruit so we may abide

## C. Life in the vine

1. Understanding “abiding” (4)
  - Used 10 times in 7 verses
    - a. I “abide” in my house. It must not abide in me.
    - b. What abides in me *controls* me

QUESTION: Where do you abide? What controls your decisions, desires, and actions? Jesus seeks that place and power.
2. Abiding in his words (7)
  - To *abide/remain* in Jesus is to *abide* in his “words”
  - To abide in his “words” is to abide in “the Word”
3. A mystical union
  - a. How do we *know* Christ?
    - Doctrine – Ethics – Spiritual Union. All three are vital
  - b. Experiencing inward intimacy with the Savior

NOTE: Not the Charismatic movement or Pentecostalism - but a deep, intimate, personal, spiritual relationship with Christ – that leads to an awareness of his presence, his *abiding* with us and in us.
4. United in prayer
  - What will I ask for? What Jesus seeks.

## III. The Fruit Of The Vine (7-8)

### A. The Father’s glory

1. Abiding in Jesus...
  - I gain forgiveness, life, deliverance, power
2. What does Jesus “gain” by abiding in me?
  - The Father is glorified
  - So the Son is glorified!
3. The creation order is restored
  - Westminster Confession of Faith Question #1
  - Answer: To glorify God and enjoy him forever!

### B. A fruitful life – Doing what we were made for!!

1. Bearing fruit!
2. Bringing glory to God