

John's Gospel: A Vital Connection

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." John 15:1 (ESV)

Only partially _____ in, my _____ would not work.

A Connection Vital For Bearing Fruit

A. The image of the vine:

1. Jeremiah 2:21 - _____ was often pictured as a vine.
2. 15:1 - _____, however, is the _____ vine.
3. 15:5 - His _____ are the _____, and they must _____ in Him.

B. A connection with Jesus enables fruit-bearing:

1. 15:1,2 - Branches that bear _____ fruit are taken _____.
2. 15:4 - Fruit-bearing is possible only if the branches _____ in the _____. Christians must _____ in _____.
3. 15:6 - Fruitless branches are _____ and _____.
4. 15:8 - God is _____ when we bear _____ fruit.

A Connection Vital For Loving One Another

A. Love made possible by being connected to Jesus:

1. 15:9-11 - The love between _____ and the _____ is the basis for the disciples' love. It will bring fullness of _____.
2. 15:12 - Jesus _____ them to _____ one another.
3. 15:13 - The _____ love is for one to lay _____ his _____ for another.
4. 15:17 - He again _____ them to love each other.

B. Aesop's lesson: "_____ we _____, _____ we _____. This is true for Jesus' disciples.

A Connection Vital For Enduring Persecution

A. How can disciples endure persecution?

1. 15:18,19 - The _____ hated _____; it will hate _____.
 2. 15:20 - If they _____ Me, they will you, too.
 3. 15:21 - The world does this because they don't know the _____ who sent _____.
 4. 15:23 - Those who _____ Jesus hate the _____, too.
- B. Watts: "Sure I must _____ if I would _____; increase my _____, Lord. I'll bear the toil, _____ the pain, supported by Thy _____."

Wright: "There is no such thing as a _____ Christian."

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