

JOHN 15 vs 1

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The ancients tell us, John lived the longest of the 12 disciples; those original followers of the Lord; it is John, the disciple whom Jesus loved... **eye-witness to Jesus Christ**, who was inspired to tell these details. Having gone to **the Mount of Olives**, the night He was betrayed... Jesus said,

¹ **I am the true vine**, and my Father is the grounds keeper / the word is: **georgos**... which is a composite of 2 Greek words: **geo** = **the ground** + **ergo** = **work, energy**. Jesus tells us: God the Father is the worker of the ground.

Now, for some reason, most people have a traditional view that God the Father... is very old, and He sits around looking for any excuse to do nothing. But the gospel writers all tell us differently as Jesus confronted the religious leaders... frequently on the Sabbath day; even adding, **My Father works, and so must I**.

So from Jesus, we learn that the writer of Psalm 121 told us the truth saying: **My help comes from the LORD who made heaven and earth**. **He who keeps you will not snooze nor sleep**. The LORD will guard, to protect your going and coming from this time forth, and forever... even on a Sabbath day! So He is not like those lazy Pharisees -- even the modern ones. He is NOT snoozing! He is working! Jesus said:

I am the true vine, and **My Father is the grounds keeper**; Paul will add: **we are His work**.

² **Every branch in Me** / in Jesus, who is the true vine... in other words, the true conduit providing life to the branches; notice, He is not talking about everything that is growing... every claimant of life... including weeds and bramble bushes. Jesus is talking about the life planted by the Father.

Every branch in Me / every branch that claims to be connected to Jesus. There are many growing on earth, who do not claim to be connected to Jesus; there are many who do not want to be connected to Jesus; and there are many... who want Jesus to be connected to them and their agenda.

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit / that produces no fruit: and you might wonder, what fruit is He talking about? There are lots of people who will say to Him: look at all the wonderful things I did; and He will simply tell them: Hey, no doubt... you gave a spectacular performance... but Dr. Helmut Thielicke was right: **you missed the point!**

Jesus is talking about... the fruit of His Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering, mercy, grace... faith, hope... and 10,000 more expressions of His Spirit. Jesus tells us:



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Every loveless, joyless, faithless, merciless... **branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away** / the Father of our Lord Jesus removes:

and **every branch that bears fruit** / producing love, and joy, and mercy, **He purges it** / the Father of our Lord Jesus **does this**; the word is: **katharizo...to cleanse**. Have you ever needed surgery... and the doctors inserted a catheter, to drain the sludge and bile out of the body? Same word! Notice: it is God our Father who does the surgery. No self-righteous inquisitor; no hacking off limbs; no burning at the stake necessary,



He purges it that it will bring forth more fruit.

³ Now you are clean, through the word which I spoke to you / the same word: **kathros**. Earlier Jesus told His disciples **you are clean**; and He knew all of them would fail Him greatly. For a second time Jesus says: the Word He already spoke to His people... causes them to be clean?! **Yes!** Wow! He speaks powerful words, which is why He said 12 times this night He was betrayed: **Keep My words; guard, to protect My commands**. Sadly, many in the church couldn't tell you one meaningful word or command Jesus said... though they can go on for hours... opinionating about their own experience.

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you / when we make our home with Him: He makes His home with us.

As **the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, except it makes its home in the vine**; so, you cannot / produce love, and joy, and peace, except you make your home... **and stay connected in Me**.

⁵ I am the vine you are the branches: for a second time, Jesus reminds us: He is the true Vine, the only conduit providing life. **He who abides / stays connected in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit** / much love, much joy, much peace... in great abundance.



Jesus the great Teacher gets to the point He wants to drive home to His students doing their math; putting it together, He says:

for without Me, you can do nothing / and we should pause often on these words and consider them deeply reminding ourselves what He said. Think about it: we can do lots of things. But Jesus, just put ALL we do that does not proceed from Him; **ALL** without exception = nothing! He expects us to join Him; to walk with Him; to learn from Him in the church He is building.

for without Me,

you can do nothing.

6 If a man makes a home not in Me / and some might ask, How do we stay connected with Jesus? Well, the same way we stay connected with all our family or friends; or with poets and famous people from the past. Did you ever meet your favorite person face to face? Most of us will respond: No! Well, we humans are built to stay connected to what parents and relatives and friends tell us. How do we stay connected? **by listening to their words.**

If we can't go talk to someone, we can at least open the books about them and start reading!

It's no great mystery, Jesus said **Keep, guard to protect My words**; we do **not** protect His words keeping them **from** the people. We protect His words **for** the people, when we share what He said **with** the people. There are highly educated folks who do NOT want us to remember what Jesus or His disciples said. And these educated folks, with capacity to memorize lots of stuff, even meaningless stuff... doctors and lawyers, and others who attend great universities; who if they graduate are stuffed... full of crap!

So back to Jesus... who said, the night He was betrayed...



If a man makes his home **not in Me, he is thrown out as a branch, and withers; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned** / Jesus says, those who will not stay connected to the Lord... and do not produce what they were created to produce: love, and joy, and mercy and grace; they are outside His plans. Jesus tells us... **they will make good fuel for the fire.**



7 If you make your home **in Me,**

and My words make their home in you / Here, the great Teacher... spells it out for even the dumbest kid in His class. It's like the teacher giving the exam... and writing the answer on the board!

There was a person I met who graduated from university... who had pounded into her head... she was to do various rules and rituals morning, noon and night... to carry her guilt, and confess her every mistake, constantly reliving every wrong she ever did; and she thought: How can anyone remember to do all these things? It was not until she opened the Bible, she discovered: none of that goofy stuff was required...

If you make your home **in Me, and My words make their home in you; you will ask whatever you wish and it will be done to you** / let His words of grace and peace find a welcomed home in your heart... each day, every day! Learn what He said.

8 By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit / Jesus tells us, His Father is works sleeplessly, day and night, to bring His planted harvest to fruition. Our Father looks for much joy, much peace, much faithfulness and of course much love for one another in each life He planted and prunes;

so, you will be My disciples. That's it! That's all our Father in heaven is looking for!

The Man of Sorrows | This is My Father's World The Love of God
Dr. Dallas Willard of USC without a changed mind there will be no changed heart.