

Secrets of the Vine: John 15
“Discipline – From Barren to Bountiful”
2-14-10

What’s the big deal about sin? Two opinions:

We talk about it too much. Or we talk about it too little.

Issue: The “vineyard” is constantly in danger of death and need the loving “discipline” of the master vinedresser.

A. We are the “branches” created to bear Spiritual “Fruit”

Evidence of God’s Spirit working from the inside out.

1. Fruit of the Spirit – begins inside. Galatians 5:22-23
2. Fruit of good works – flows outside. Matt. 5:16

B. The “Grape Gap” – do I have any fruit in the basket?

C. The “Taste Test” – Is my fruit sweet or sour grapes?

Matthew 12:33 “...for the tree is known by its fruit.”

D. Main Point: God lovingly disciplines us when we are in SIN to restore us to life & fruitfulness!

John 15:1 *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”*

We under estimate God’s holiness, and over estimate our goodness.

We under estimate God’s abundant life for us, and over estimate our ability to achieve it ourselves.

We under estimate the power of sin, and over estimate our ability to overcome it.

Sin will take you further than you wanted to go, and keep you longer than you ever wanted to stay, and cost you more than you ever wanted to pay. (unknown author)

E. Godly Discipline - Hebrews 12:5-11

God discipline is out of LOVE for ALL his children!

God’s discipline is PAINFUL at the time.

God’s discipline is for our GOOD!

God’s discipline is working HOLINESS and a HARVEST of RIGHTEOUSNESS

God’s discipline is PERFECT vs. our human version.

How do I know if God is “disciplining” me or “pruning” me?
ASK HIM! He wants you to know!

F. Differences:

	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Pruning</u>
Fruitfulness:	No fruit (one area)	Some Fruit
Cause:	Sin (personal)	Sin (general)
Negative Feelings:	Guilt / shame	Weary / confused
God’s goal:	Fruit	More Fruit
God’s tools:	Discipline	Trials / Tests
Ungodly response:	Rebel	Resist / Offense
Godly response:	Repent & Submit	Surrender & Receive

G. RESPONSE: Repent of sin & Submit to Christ’s Lordship.

Disciples learn to respond to the Father’s discipl(e)-ine.

Matthew 3:8 Produce **fruit** in keeping with **repentance**.

Example: David - Psalm 51

**** Write out your Prayer of Response:**