

**Secrets of the Vine: John 15**  
**“Fruitfulness”**  
**2-7-10**

John 15:5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

**A. Spiritual “Fruit”** – evidence of God’s Spirit working from the inside out. Spiritual “fruit” begins inside our heart, and naturally flows externally in our actions and words.

**1. Fruit of the Spirit – begins inside**

Galatians 5:22-23 Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**2. Fruit of good works – flows outside**

Matt. 5:16 *"Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

**B. The “Vineyard” Metaphor – John 15:1-17**

**1. The Vinedresser is God the Father – vs. 1**

- a. God loves the vineyard (Church), branches (Christians) and “fruit” (evidence of his glory).
- b. God loves “fruit” enough to plant, care for, discipline, & prune our lives.

**2. The Vine is Jesus – (vs.1) the “trunk”**

- a. Fruit is a natural result of being connected to Jesus by his Holy Spirit.
- b. We cannot produce spiritual “fruit” on our own.

**3. Our lives are the Branches – vs. 5**

- a. He has chosen and appointed all of us to bear much fruit – 15:16
- b. We love to bear fruit! We were created to bring God glory!

**C. “Taste Testing”** – What does my “fruit” taste like?

We tend to evaluate ourselves too critically, or too carelessly. That’s why we need to prayerfully ask the Vinedresser himself. He is perfect in grace AND truth.

**Matthew 12:33** *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit." (Jesus)*

In what areas of my life am I producing “sweet” grapes? Sour?

What do my character, reputation, thoughts, words, and actions “taste” like at home? At work? At school?

What do others see in my life that gives evidence to my heart connection with Jesus?

**Remember: every grape counts! We are all in God’s “vineyard” together!**