

## Pictures of Jesus

# *The True Vine*

*The vine is the main part of the plant that produces fruit. The branches reach out from the vine and take their life from the vine. Branches that are healthy will produce fruit. This is what Jesus was talking about when He calls Himself the vine and we are the branches. We take our life from Jesus and out of love and gratitude, produce fruit that is pleasing to God.*



**John 15:1 | “I (Jesus) am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.”**

**John 15:4 | “Remain in me (Jesus) and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”**

**John 15:5 | “I (Jesus) am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”**

A vine has roots and a large stem from which many branches grow. The vine is the life of the plant since the branches could not grow apart from the vine. The branches need the vine to live and grow and produce fruit.

This picture of Jesus shows us just how much we need Him. Everyone who believes in Jesus is like a branch on a vine. We are the branches and Jesus is the vine. Without Jesus we could not live or have eternal life in heaven.

In our Bible passages above, Jesus tells us that we must have faith in Him and remain faithful to Him. Through faith in our Savior, we remain a part of Jesus like the branch remains a part of the vine. Jesus wants us to be saved from our sins but the only way for us to be saved is through faith in Him. Jesus is our only hope of salvation.

The fruit that Jesus talks about is every good thing that comes from our faith in Him. Every act of faith or kindness is given the picture name "fruit". Even when no one else sees these acts of faith or kindness, God sees and is pleased. These acts of faith or kindness do not earn our salvation, only Jesus could do that.

These acts are the result of the goodness of Jesus that flows in us like the goodness that flows from the vine to the branches. It is not our own goodness that produces fruit it is the goodness of Jesus that produces fruit.

Next time you see a vine or a tree or any plant, think of this picture of Jesus. See how the branches grow from the main part of the plant. See how the leaves and flowers grow from the main part of the plant. That is how we grow and live with Jesus as the main part of our lives. What a picture!

#### PRAYER TIME

Jesus, You are the vine from which we grow. You give us everything we need to live now and in eternity. We need you like the branches on a tree need the trunk of the tree. Thank you for making us a part of You and for giving us life now and forever. Amen