**The Vine and its Branches**

**John 17:23** We are one with Him

**Ephesians 5:29-32** We are “bone of His bones.”

God chose not to be alone! He chose us to be His help meet.

We have a “partnership” relationship with Him.

**Colossians 2:10** We are complete in Him

**Ephesians 1:23** We bring Him to His fullness

With this in mind, let us focus on the concepts concerning the vine and its branches in **John 15.**

***John 15:1-5****I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

***2****Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

***3****Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

***4****Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

***5****I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

The branch can’t exist without abiding in the vine. What part does the vine play in the relationship that it has with the branches? The vine is the “life-line” that everything that pertains to the life of the branch flows through. Without the vine there is no life in the branch. It depends upon the relationship that it has with the vine.

What part do the branches play? The branches bear fruit and produce the seed that insures the reproduction of the vine. The fruit only comes as the branch receives from the vine.

Can you picture a vine or a trunk of a tree with no branches? What will happen to the vine or the trunk without the branches?

Not only do the branches bear the fruit of reproduction, but the branches also identify the tree. All of the splendor and glory of the tree or vine is displayed through the branches that bear the leaves, the flowers and the fruit. Without the branches, the tree will die!

 It takes both parts! We have a partner relationship with God!

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Relate this to **Genesis 1:24-26** God created everything to bring forth after its kind and God created man in his image to bring forth after His kind.

***John 1:15****I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman*

Now, looking at **John 15:1,** what is the role of the husbandman or the farmer? The farmer prepares the soil, plants the seed, supplies the fertilizer, waters the plant and supplies everything that is needed in order for the vine to bring forth fruit in abundance.

***John 15: 2****Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.* ***3****Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

What happens to the branch that bears no fruit? What must take place before the branch can bear more fruit? We have this traditional idea that it will be a painful process because we have not looked at in in light of the relationship that we have as a branch. Unless the provision flows through the vine, the branch will not bear fruit.

Look at the scriptures again in light of definitions for “*taketh away,” and “purgeth”* from Strong’s Concordance.

**taketh away-**to lift, to take away, to expiate sin, remove

**purgeth-**to cleanse, to prune, to expiate sin

The branches bear fruit because the cross was a success. Everything that seems to stand in the way of the branch bearing fruit has been taken care of by the husbandman through Jesus!

***John 15:7****If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.* ***8****Herein* ***[in this position of rest (Strong’s Concordance)*** *is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so* ***[in this cumulative force (Strong’s Concordance)*** *shall ye be my disciples.*

We bear fruit by abiding in the vine. The word ask here is deceiving. It sounds like the branch has to continually ask the vine to supply. Once again, by referring Strong’s Concordance, we can get a true picture of what was being conveyed.

**Ask- (159)** this particular word for ask does not mean ask as we know it. It means to demand what is due. In other words, when the branch is in the abiding position, everything the branch has need of is provided for by the vine because that is what the vine does. Put into terms that we can understand, when we take our position as a son with the mentality that the Father will provide for us, we will have everything that we need provision for.

**John 14:10** What position did Jesus (as the Son) take?

***John 15:9****As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

We are told to “continue!” In the beginning God created everything to bring forth after its kind and we are the ones that bear the fruit and “fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.” We validate the Father as a good provider when we begin to see the type of relationship that the Father intended for us to walk in with Him and receive of His provision. God said that He would not share his glory with anyone. What He means by this is that He will not share His position as our provider with anyone, but as our Father he shares everything that He has with us. When we begin to realize that we are filled with His glory, and His honor and live our lives with that mentality, the whole world will see the glory of God through us.