

New Testament Church
The Book of John #29 – John 15:1-17 – I am the True Vine
September 6, 2026 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Gospel of John - Why expository preaching and why the Book of John at this time?

- A. Expository preaching brings depth, continuity and helps a congregation study together
 - 1. John reveals Christ as God – (eagle) - “behold your God” (Is. 40:9)
 - 2. The gospels reveal the “four faces” of Christ – king, servant, man, eagle
- B. John, author of John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation was a disciple of John the Baptist
- C. One of the themes in John are the various **signs** that indicate critical aspects of Christ
 - 1. The **first SIGN** was water into wine (John 2) – there is New Life in Christ
 - 2. The **second SIGN** was healing the Nobleman’s son (John 4) – faith in Christ’s Word
 - 3. The **third SIGN** was healing the cripple (John 5) – Christ’s undeserving Grace
 - 4. The **fourth SIGN** feeding the 5,000 (John 6) – Christ is the bread of life
 - 5. The **fifth SIGN** of walking on water (John 6) – Transcendence of Bread (empowerment)
 - 6. The **sixth SIGN** of healing the man born blind (John 9) – Spiritual Sight (through Christ)
 - 7. The **seventh SIGN** of raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11) – Resurrection Life
- D. The **I AM** statements by Jesus – declaring who He is...
 - 1. In John 6 and 8 - I am the Bread of Life; I am the Light of the World
 - 3-4. In John 10 – I am the Door and I am the Good Shepherd
 - 5. In John 11 and 14 – I am the Resurrection and Life; I am the Way, Truth and Life

II John 15:1-17 – I am the True Vine

- A. **I AM THE TRUE VINE** – and my Father is the Husbandman (v. 1)
 - 1. The vine of the olive or fig tree is a symbol of Israel – often degenerate and backslidden
 - 2. A small vine in comparison to the bulk of fruit produced – productive (the purpose of our conversion is not just for us, but producing fruit for the Kingdom (expanse of Christ’s rule)
 - 3. This is the central part of Jesus’ discourse at the Last Supper – the Holy Spirit’s work in us
 - 4. The vine is productive if tended by the “husbandman” – or pruned in relationship
 - 5. If Jesus is the True Vine, what is the false one? It is the one separated from Christ
- B. v. 2-8 – **Abiding** in the Vine – the process by which we bear fruit oversized with the plant
 - 1. Dead branches are removed – we know someone is converted “by their fruit”
 - 2. The productive branches are pruned back so that they produce more fruit – lateral growth
 - 3. The disciples are “clean” – positionally – through Christ’s words – vine is vertical growth
 - 4. “Abide (to stay, dwell, remain) in me, and I in you.” (v. 4) – the biological example
 - a. We are the branches – and if functionally separated from Christ, we can’t bear fruit
 - b. Any individual, family, church or ministry, if separated from Christ, withers away
 - 5. Holy Spirit carries out the Father’s will in pruning – bringing discipline through difficulties
 - 6. The promise is given here – *If ye abide I me, and my words abide I you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...*
- C. v. 9-17 – As the Father loves Me (Christ), so I have loved you , **continue** in my Love
 - 7. To “abide” is to obey – Jesus kept God’s commandments (OT Law) – He fulfills the Law
 - 8. My joy (aware of grace and favor) remain and its fullness – Joy before the cross (Heb. 12:2)
 - 9. This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you (v. 12)
 - a. “..an obedient, self-sacrificing love, a ministering love, not a struggle for power.”
 - b. It doesn’t come from emotion, but from obedience – just as Christ sacrificed for us
 - 10. v. 13-15 – *Greater love hath no man than this, ...lay down his life for his friends*
 - a. Friends (philos) – the King has invited us to His banquet – no “titles of nobility” here
 - b. I call you not servants, but friends – equal not in nature, but as a legacy of Him!
 - 11. v. 16-17 – I have chosen you... that your fruit shall remain (legacy) – ask in My Name