

**SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017**  
**THEME – SURVEYING THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S LOVE**  
**UNIT I – THE FOUNDATION OF GOD’S LOVE**

**“LOVE’S SIGNIFICANCE IS FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST,  
THE TRUE VINE”**

<b>Jesus’ Seven “I am ...” Statements</b>						
John 6:48 “I am the bread of life.”	John 8:12 “I am the light of the world.”	John 10:9 “I am the door.”	John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd.”	John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life.”	John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”	John 15:1 “I am the true vine.”
<b>The Sustainer</b>	<b>The Illuminator</b>	<b>The Mediator</b>	<b>The Care-taker</b>	<b>The Life-giver</b>	<b>The Leader</b>	<b>The Success-maker</b>
He gives us all we need.	He brings the energy of light into our dark world.	He brings us where we otherwise could not go.	He cares for us just like we need it.	He brought us from death into life eternal.	He guides us through life’s difficult ways.	He makes us unbelievably productive.

**Sunday School Lesson No. III**

**March 19, 2017**

**Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher**

**Lesson Text:** John 15:1-17

**Required Reading:** John 15:1-17

**Lesson Motto Text:** John 15:5, 12 *“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.”*  
v.12, *“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”*

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living by UMI; I John (H. A. Ironside); Standard Lesson Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible

**LESSON INTRODUCTION**

“In our human condition, we search for that which enables us to love and be loved by others. Where do we find the authentic source of this love? The writer of the Gospel says that Jesus is the Source!” (Precepts for Living Pastor’s Sermon Book)

We’ve come to the final declaration in John’s Gospel concerning the “I Ams” of Jesus Christ. He hath declared *“I am the Bread of Life;” “Light of the World;” “Door of the Sheep;” “Good Shepherd;” “Resurrection and the Life;” “Way, Truth and the Life;” and now, “The True Vine.”* In John 14:31, Jesus tells His disciples, *“Let us be going.”* This was the signal of finality as they left the Upper Room and journeyed to the place where Judas would betray Him, and He would go to the Cross. While walking, they probably passed the Temple on which were engraved beautiful vines, or they may have walked through an area with budding grapevines. Nevertheless, Jesus used this opportunity to declare this great metaphorical truth as it related to Israel and Himself, *“I am the True Vine.”* Jehovah had long used the symbol of the vine to describe the nation of Israel (Psalm 80, Isaiah 5, etc.). But what can we learn from this allegorical illustration of Jesus Christ? Let us examine the text which describes **“Love’s Significance is Found in Jesus Christ, The True Vine.”**

**Our Anticipated Power Points Are:**

- Christ the True Vine is Significant as the Believer’s Source. John 15:1-3
- Christ the True Vine is Significant as the Believer’s Sustainer. John 15:4-8
- Christ the True Vine is Significant as the Believer’s Loving Sanctifier. John 15:9-17

## OUTLINE

As the True Vine, Jesus Christ has become at least three things to the true believer:

**I. Christ the True Vine is Significant as the Believer's Source. John 15:1-3**

**A. He is directly responsible for us. vs. 1 ("I am")**

**B. His Father will divinely remove all unproductive matter.** (Because He is the Gardener, or Vine-dresser) **vs. 2**  
But what is unproductive matter? That which produces no fruit, and fruit is the evidence of identifying the vine. True branches ought to give evidence of the true vine. (Read Galatians 5:16-25 and examine your personal evidence!)

**C. He delivers assurance to us through His word. vs. 3**

1. Our righteousness is declared by His word.

2. Our eternal destiny lies in His word. "*Ye are clean*" (purified) by the Lord's Word!

**II. Christ the True Vine is Significant as the Believer's Sustainer. John 15:4-8**

**A. Abiding in Him makes us fruitful. vs. 4-5**

The key to growth and joy is ABIDING: staying attached; remaining; or continuing to commune (vss. 2, 5). We mature from fruit, to more fruit, to much fruit. That is the design of the true vine and the vine dresser.

**B. Not abiding leaves us destitute and fruitless. vs. 6**

The apostate vs. the genuine? Or the committed vs. the uncommitted? In either case, the result is the same!

Examples: A severed pipeline, telephone cord, unplugged appliance...renders no power! "And why?" one may ask. Because it has left the Source!

**C. Abiding continually in the vine makes us a channel of His abiding joy.**

1. The joy of a prayer-filled life. vs. 7

2. The joy of a purposeful life. vs. 8 (Read Matthew 5:14-16 and glorify the Father!)

**III. Christ the True Vine is Significant as the Believer's Loving Sanctifier. John 15:9-17**

**A. His loving example guides us. vs. 9-10**

**B. His loving words of joy complete us. vs. 11**

**C. His command to love other saints encourages us. vs. 12-13**

**D. His loving compassion endears us. vs. 14-15**

**E. His loving blessed assurance gives us overwhelming confidence. vs. 16-17**

### CLOSING

Dear friend, are you a productive branch of the True Vine? Do you strive to remain attached by feeding on His word and prayer in significant love? Is there fruit in your life that demonstrates Jesus' presence? Jesus says "*Without me, you can do nothing.*"

### **The Vinedresser's Knife**

*By Ralph I. Tilley*

*"... and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit." — John 15:2b (NASB)*

*As a branch in Your vineyard, Lord, I want to be fruitful;  
To produce a rich harvest for You, I would be grateful.  
"Child, to be a fruitful branch, In this season of your life,  
Let me cut away from you, All that's useless with My knife."  
Lord, is there no other way, I can produce fruit for You,  
Some way that's far less painful, Than pruning that which I grew?  
"The only way is My way, As painful as it may be;  
By submitting to My knife, You'll bear fruit abundantly."  
Then, Lord, gently take Your knife—I trustingly surrender;  
For to bear rich Spirit-fruit, Magnifies my Vinedresser.*

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**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**March 26, 2017**

**Joel 2:12-13, 18-19, 28-32**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**