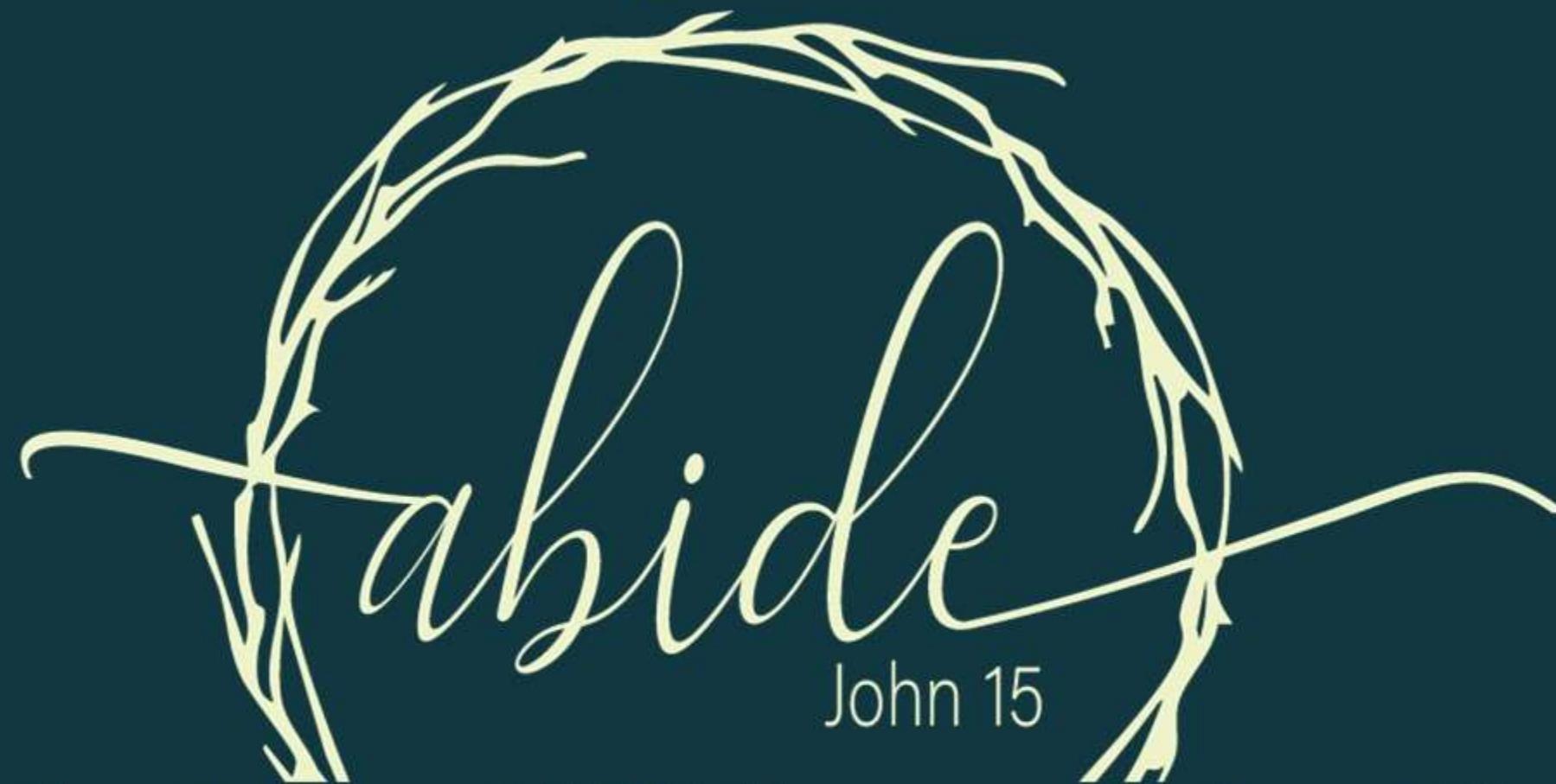


# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual 2025 Embracing Biblical Womanhood Conference



*"Apart from **HIM**, we can do nothing"*

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# John 15:1-17 – Abide in Christ

Keynote Session 1



*"Apart from **HIM**, we can do nothing"*

# Context of John 15

- Jesus' final words to His disciples.
- Chapter 13
  - Washes the disciples' feet.
  - Reveals -
    - His nature of self-giving love.
    - He is the only One who can make us clean.



# Context of John 15

- Chapter 14
  - Preparing His disciples for His departure.
  - Reminds them -
    - He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6)
  - Promises them -
    - The Holy Spirit will soon be sent in His name



# Context of John 15

- Jesus urges them:
  - love Him and love one another.
- Like a father who knows he is nearing the end of his life, giving final words of instruction to his children:
  - Take care of each other.
  - Remember what I've taught you.
  - Don't turn back to old ways.
  - Hold fast to everything we've worked toward.



# Context of John 15

- Yet,
  - unlike earthly fathers who leave behind only memories:
  - The Heavenly Father gives us the Holy Spirit as our Helper
    - not just to recall Christ's words but to empower us to live them.



# Role of the Vinedresser

- Cares for both the vine and its branches
- Cuts away dead or weak branches that don't bear fruit, so the healthy ones receive more strength
- Trains the branches
  - Lifts them from the dirt
  - Protects them from pests and disease
- Piles and burns the cut weak or diseased branches so that disease doesn't spread.
- Waters the soil when needed.



# Role of the Vine

- The vine is the life source
  - It anchors into the soil
  - draws up water and nutrients,
  - sends that life through its branches
- Produces fruit from the branches.
- Without a strong vine, the branches cannot survive or bear fruit.



John 15:1

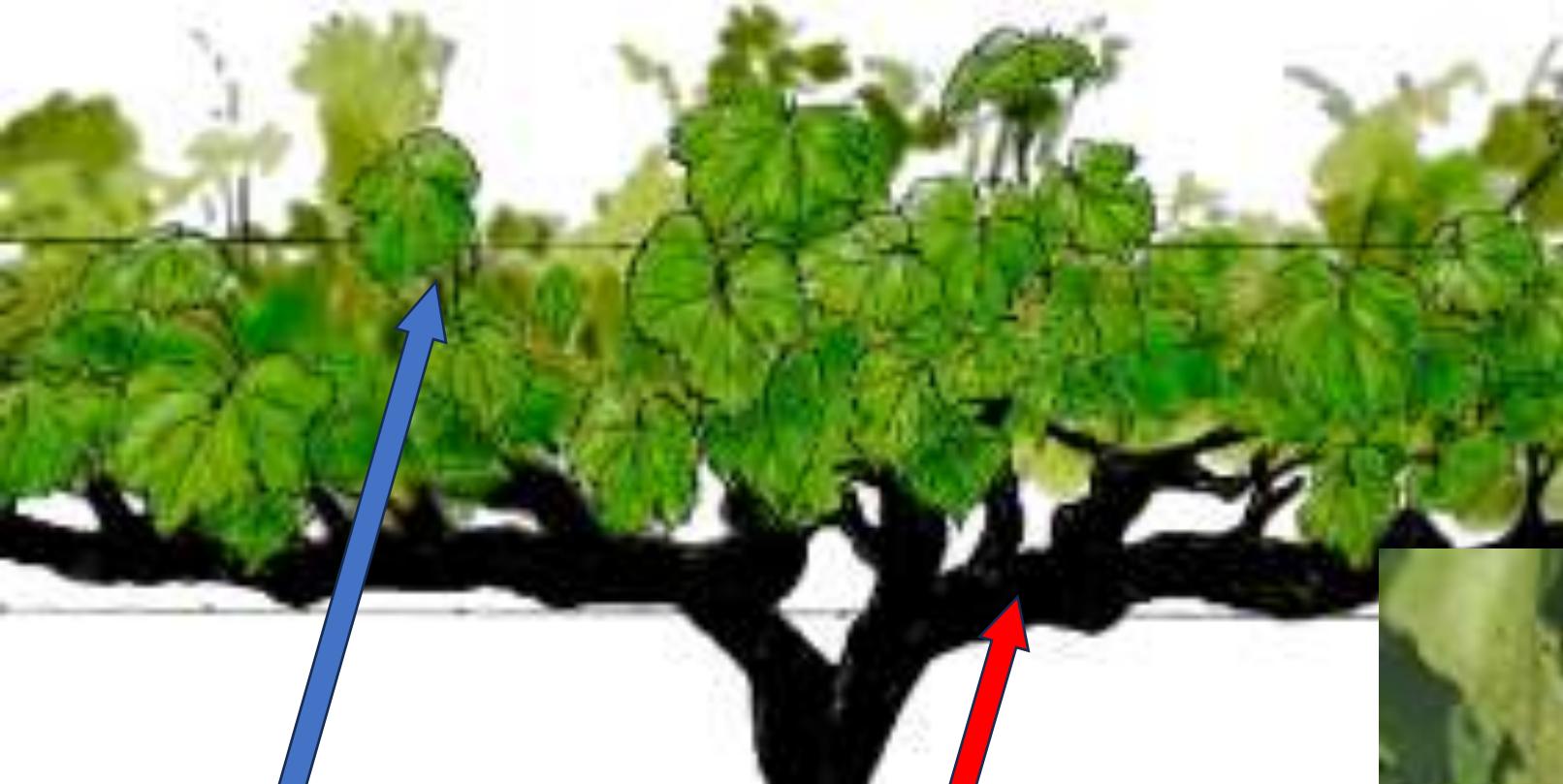
**“I am the true vine, and my father is the vinedresser”**



John 15:2

**“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”**





The Disciples/Believers  
are the branches that  
will bear fruit

The Vine is  
Jesus, the Christ

God the Father is the  
Vinedresser/Gardener



# What is the fruit?

1. Fruit=fruit
2. Fruit=babies
3. Fruit=souls saved from hell (evang.)
4. Fruit=fruit of the spirit
5. Fruit=heavenly credit for future rewards from God
6. Fruit=good works in the name of Christ
7. Fruit=praise and thanksgiving to God from my mouth



# AI definition of Pruning

Pruning is arguably the most important task and is performed throughout the year.

- Dormant pruning (winter)
- Green pruning (summer)

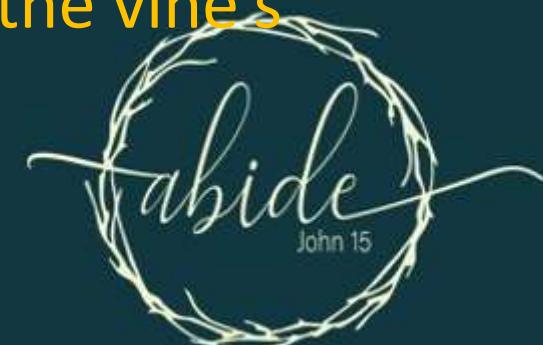


## Dormant pruning (winter):

The most significant pruning is done when the vine is dormant. The vinedresser removes excess woody growth to control the vine's shape and establish a balanced number of buds for the coming season. Too many buds can lead to overproduction, which results in diluted flavors, while too few can reduce the yield.

## Green pruning (summer):

During the growing season, the vinedresser continues to thin unwanted shoots, leaves, and grape clusters. This directs the vine's energy toward the most promising fruit.



# Expect to be Pruned

Hebrews 12:10-11 tells us

“For they discipline us for a short time, as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment, all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”



# What does pruning look like for us?

Practical ways the Lord prunes you to create fruit in you

1. Removing sin
2. Removing wasteful time stealers



### 3. Allowing trials (things that make us depend on the vine)

- Failure
- Loss
- Persecution
- Slander
- Grief
- Disappointment
- Closing doors
- Having to wait and Trust  
in the waiting
- Obedience in hard things
- Forgiveness
- serving others
- Hard seasons
- Caregiving
- difficult marriage
- Parenting
- health problems
- difficult relationships
- Faith testers



“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

James 1:2-3





John 15:3

**“Already you are clean because of the word  
that I have spoken to you.”**



# John 15:4

**“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”**





# a·bide

/ə'bīd/

verb

verb: **abide**; 3rd person present: **abides**; past tense: **abided**; past participle: **abided**; gerund or present participle: **abiding**

1. accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation).

"I said I would abide by their decision"

Similar:

comply with

obey

observe

follow

keep to

hold to



2. be able to tolerate (someone or something).

"if there is one thing I cannot abide it is a lack of discipline"

Similar:

tolerate

bear

stand

put up with

endure

suffer



3. (of a feeling or memory) continue without fading or being lost.

"at least one memory will abide"

Similar:

continue

remain

survive

last

persist

stay

hold on



- **ARCHAIC**

live; dwell.

"many unskillful Men do abide in our City of London"

# Abiding

- Remaining in the vine
- Continuous dependence
- Constant reliance
- Persistent spiritual imbibing (consuming)
  - The branch has to absorb what nourishment the vine provides



# Ways we can abide/get nourishment from the vine

1. Reading God's Word
2. Abiding through prayer
  - Constant communication to the Father
3. Holy Spirit
  - allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you, not your flesh  
YIKES!!
4. The gathering of other believers
5. Obedience and trust
6. Worship and gratitude



# Ways Christ/the Vine Abides in You

1. You see your sin for what it is
2. Your character starts to reflect Christ (Fruits of the Spirit)
3. You are able to endure trials/pruning
4. You want to be obedient
5. Your prayers are answered
6. You have a desire to know Him more
7. You respond to others the way Christ would
8. You are aware He is near



# John 15:5

**“I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is  
that bears much fruit, for apart from me you  
can do nothing.”**



# John 15:6

“If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”



John 15:6

“If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”



# John 15:7

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”



John 15:8

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”





How different would your life look without Christ and His pruning process in it?

# John 15:9-10

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”



“However much God’s love for us is gracious and undeserved, continued enjoyment of that love turns, at least in part, on our response to it”

-DA CARSON



# John 15:11

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”



# JOYFUL OBEDIENCE



# John 15:12-13

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”





# Dying to Self ... What does it look like?

1. Choosing forgiveness
2. Serving your spouse, children, family, friends
3. Letting go of the need to always be right
4. Putting aside your comfort
5. Doing unseen acts of service



# Dying to Self....

- 6. Saying “YES” to God’s calling
- 7. Receiving correction
- 8. Denying selfish pride
- 9. Choosing Patience and gentleness
- 10. Trusting God’s will



# John 15:14-15

“You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”



Unfruitful Branches	Fruit-Bearing Branches
Disobedience	Obey Christ
Servant	Friend



# John 15:16

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”





# John 15:17

“These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”



# Lets RECAP...

1. Abide in the vine and expect pruning
2. Realize apart from Christ you can do **NOTHING.**
3. We need to Love one another



## Thoughts to Leave You With....

1. Who or what are you abiding in?
2. How are you loving one another?



*"Apart from **HIM**, we can do nothing"*