



Are You Staying Close to Jesus?

John 15:1-8

Setting the stage

- **Grapes most widely grown fruit**
- **Fresh, raisins, wine**
- **Colors, sizes, flavors**
- **Quality of vine affects quality of grape**
- **Good vines produce for 100+ years**
- **Pruning key to production of good grape**
- **Vineyard associated with Israel**
- **Jesus uses as illustration of life in Him**
- **Fruit-bearing is emphasis of passage**

What do we know?

- **Jesus is the vine**
- **We are the branches**
- **God is the gardener**
- **When it comes to our life in Christ, what does pruning look like?**
 - **Adversity, correction, struggle**
- **What would qualify as dead wood?**
 - **Drain/Impede work of Christ**

What about bearing fruit?

- **Empowered prayer life**

- “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you” (v. 7).

- **God being glorified**

- It’s not about “me”, it’s about the things of God

How does one bear fruit?

- **By remaining – abiding – staying close to Jesus**
- **Our fruit production flows out of spending time being linked to Jesus**
- **The Holy Spirit is our comforter – guide – counselor**
- **Are we hooked up to Jesus?**
- **Do we sense the flow of the Holy Spirit in us?**

How does one bear fruit?

- **Outer fruit: servanthood, generosity, kindness, helpfulness**
- **Inner fruit: peace, patience, joy, goodness, faithfulness, self-control**
- **Direct correlation between time spent with God – staying close to Jesus – and the fruit we bear**

A final word

- **Jesus' final word?**
 - Stay close to me**
 - Abide in me**
 - Remain in me**
 - Bear fruit for the cause of Christ, the Kingdom of God, and bring glory to God's name**