

Fruit-Producing Fellowship John 15:1-8

Characters in this agricultural allegory, 15:1-3

- ◆ *Vine* = Jesus, *Vine Gardener* = the Father, *Branches* = people
Fruitful branches = the obedient / Non-fruitful branches = ?
 - #1 believers who lose salvation?
 - #2 unbelievers who just profess faith?
 - #3 believers who aren't in fellowship / non-obedient?
- ◆ See use of *in Me* (16x) in John and them being clean w/o Judas.
- ◆ Many wrongly equate *abide* with *believe*, which leads to oddities if applied elsewhere (eg. 6:56 would be--...*and I believe in him*)
- ◆ Pruning = *to cleanse* (clean up branches), see clean in vs. 3 too.

Command to abide so as to bear fruit, 15:4-5

- ◆ The command to abide suggests the 11 might not, thus Jesus' concern and later prayer for them (ch.17, and Lk. 22:32).
- ◆ *Abide* = to remain / stay connected through obedience, see 10.

Consequences for abiding / not abiding in Christ, 15:6-8

- ◆ Result of not abiding = taken away / gathered / burned = ?
Fire is a common image for judgment, Isa. 9:9-19, I Cor. 3:11-15.
- ◆ Result for abiding = prayers answered and the Father glorified.

Issue here = more than just bearing fruit, but to bear much fruit (2,5,8).

Fruit = of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), good deeds (Mtt. 3:10)?

See 15:16 "Go and bear much fruit." This does suggest a commission as in Mtt. 28:19,20 / Phil 1:22.

