

January 13, 2019 - Pastor Robin W. Pifer

Message: Capacity: Fruit Bearing for Christ's Glory

Scripture: John 15:1-17; Luke 6:38; 2Cor 8:7

Capacity is the maximum amount that something can contain or produce.

Increase your capacity in every area of life by remaining connected to Jesus Christ.

I. Connect to the True Vine. (v. 1-4)

- **Jesus is the True Vine.**
- **The Father is the Gardener.**
- **No fruit shows you are not connected to the true vine.**
- **Pruning results in greater fruit bearing.**
 - **Pruning, Discipline, Joy.**
 - **Fruit, More Fruit, Much Fruit**
 - **Gal 5:13-26**
- **The Word produces purity. 2Timothy 3:16**

II. Remain in the True Vine. (v. 5-8)

- **Remaining means fruit bearing.**
- **Apart from Christ we can do nothing.**
- **Not remaining means disaster v. 6**
- **Connection of the Word and Prayer. v. 7**
- **Fruit bearing shows discipleship. "A fruitless life is prime evidence that one is not a believer."**
- **Ephesians 5:8**

III. Receive from the True Vine (v. 9-17)

- **Christ's love is given.**
- **Love each other. "Love is the relationship that unites the branches together."**
- **Abiding in Christ moves us from servants to friends.**
- **Go and Bear Fruit that will last.**

Results: Galatians 5: 22-26; Luke 6:38; 2Cor 8:7

Life Group Questions

1. Discuss our personal capacity versus the capacity of the Lord.
2. Two important truths stem from this study: first, refusing to abide results in barrenness, and second, abiding results in fruitfulness. How does this connect to Psalm 1? Discuss this together.
3. What are the differences between those who are connected to Jesus Christ and those who are not?
4. What metaphor does John use to assist us in understanding our personal capacity for growth?
5. How does pruning or discipline assist us in our growth capacity as believers? See Hebrews 12:4-13
6. Why is fruit, more fruit, much fruit such an important illustration of our growth? What does this say about our spiritual growth capacity in Christ?
7. In what ways does remaining in Christ mean a "long obedience" for our future spiritual success? Share some scripture or biblical examples of this happening for God's people.
8. Skim chapters 15-21 in the gospel of John, record your observations about Christ. What do you notice about him?
9. What is your next step in seeking to be connected and abiding in Jesus Christ?

