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# I Am the True Vine, John 15:1-17

By Aaron Shamp

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## Introduction

- This is the final statement of Jesus in our series. We conclude by looking at Jesus' desire for us. In other words, what did he save us *for*?

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## What Is Our Purpose? Vs. 5

- What words are repeated over and over again in this passage?
  - Remain (or abide) and fruit. Transformation is the sign of life... the evidence that Christ dwells within us.
- Point: We only produce fruit by abiding in Christ.
  - Christianity does not offer a self-improvement plan. It doesn't present steps or rules to change. It offers us a Person.
    - Not rules... He doesn't desire mechanical compliance.
      - He wants natural obedience that comes from inner transformation.

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## How Do We Fulfill That Purpose? vs. 9

- Point: We only produce fruit by abiding in Christ's love.
  - How do we produce fruit for Christ?
    - Two people can look very similar on the outside, yet have vastly different motivations.
  - There are other effective means for changing behavior: fear and pride.
    - However, behavior modification without inner transformation will be short lived and inauthentic.

- A tree that is living will produce fruit, but you can't nail apples to a dead tree and call it alive.
  - Mechanical obedience without experiencing the love of Christ is a flower cut from its source of life.
- APP: Obey then reflect.

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## What Does That Look Like? vs. 10, 12-14

- This might all sound very nice, but we ought to clearly state that Jesus is not giving meaningless platitudes.
  - After all, what does it mean to experience his love, bear fruit, and abide in him?
- Point: We only produce fruit by obeying his commandments.
  - Jesus says very plainly that the fruit will be visible, distinguishable (10, 12-14).
    - How do we know what it means to love someone? Follow Christ's commandments.
    - You cannot both love someone and break God's law.
      - Christ perfectly loves by perfectly obeying the Father's commands.
  - How is that possible? Because he went under the knife.
- APP: What are the signs of someone who is abiding in Christ?
  - First of all, you will selflessly love others.
  - Second, you will have fearless prayer.
  - Third, you will have complete joy.
    - Even the knife will increase your joy.