



## *The Vintage Newsletter*

### “Abiding in the Vine”

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that bears not fruit he takes away: and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” St. John 15:1-6*

In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus uses a simple but direct and penetrating illustration of a branch/vine relationship. It was a good example of how to have an abiding fellowship with Christ; God in you and you in God and this love relationship yields a harvest of spiritual fruit. The Gethsemane setting was a place that Jesus disciples could easily identify with for it was not uncommon to see Vinedressers throughout the city dressing vineyards for it was the town’s chief occupation and healthy grape crops meant life was good. This farewell address had to be an emotionally moving moment for Jesus and his disciples for they had done the work of the ministry together for three years and they realized that Jesus crucifixion was before Him at Calvary’s Cross. Jesus always wants you to be in a place of faith and knowing who He is and what He can do. So Jesus states *“I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman”*

A husbandman functions as a natural husband who is committed to his wife and family and does everything to cultivate and nurture his family or vineyard. It doesn’t matter if its storms, rains, drought or famine he works his vineyard (family) until it bears fruit or becomes a place of praise in the earth-until it becomes something great for God. Biblically, a husbandman or Vinedresser removes old fibrous bark, dead wood of worthless, fruitless branches. There are branches that are barren and potentially fruitful branches; however, without pruning the vine and cutting away dead, useless wood the vine become unmanageable which indicates that has been poorly trained and produces vegetation rather than high quality fruit. The potentially fruitful branches are carefully tended by the vinedresser and the power of the vine presses its strength into the branch and fruit grows in its season.

Spiritually, Jesus Christ is the True Vine and you a born again believer becomes a new creature in Christ and God the Father is the Vinedresser. As you exercise an abiding fellowship with Him the invisible power of the Holy Ghost presses its strength into you, the branch and then God purges us or sanctifies of through His word and trims the dead areas of our soul into a disciplined well managed life of obedience and fruitfulness. The nature of spiritual fruit is characteristic of your life as they are His.

*“I Am The True Vine and My Father is The Husbandman”*