

# Jesus Is the True Vine

*Promise: staying connected to Jesus results in fruitful and abundant life*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 150; 1 John 4:1-21; John 15:1-8

(Fifth Sunday of Easter, 5/2/21)

*[Jesus says] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser." – v. 1*

**Lead In** – There are seven “I am” statements by Jesus recorded in John’s Gospel. In order they are: 1) I am the bread of life, 2) I am the light of the world, *I am...* 3) the door, 4) the Good Shepherd, 5) the resurrection and the life, 6) the way, the truth, and the life, and 7) I am the true vine. Just with those statements alone, we eliminate all consideration of Jesus merely being a great teacher or fine moral example. This is an unmistakable claim to being deity...

## I. What Does Jesus Mean That He Is the True Vine

- How Jewish hearers then would have heard it...
- Israel’s vocation to the world...
- For all the world, the one sure fountain of life...

## II. Is Christianity Then the Only True Source of Life?

- With so many religions and ideas, is only one true?
- Why we know many things at least partially true...
- When the Creator enters the stage, twice...

## III. To Be Fully Alive Ourselves

- We are branches, not vines!
- Branches do not attach themselves to vines...
- Cleansed once, but then constantly pruned...

**Parting Shot** – That the Creator of all that exists can be depended upon for reliable truth provides the light by which we can see signs and indications of truth everywhere, even in other religions. For this we can be thankful and rejoice. But there is nothing as reliable as what the Creator Himself communicates to us by His Word – Spoken, Written, and then Incarnate (embodied). And He says we need to continue to be sustained in our being joined to Him in Baptism, and this is largely done by being attentive to His Word, His Sacraments, and in constant prayer...

**Ref for “I Am” statements:** 1) John 6:35, 2) John 8:12; 3) John 10:9, 4) John 10:11, 5) John 11:25, 6) John 14:6, 7) John 15:1

**Is 5:7** For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry! (cf Is 5:1-7; Ez 19:10-14)

**Ge 12:2-3** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

**Is 49:6b** I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

## John 15:1-8 ESV

*I Am the True Vine*

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

**Jn 1:4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**Jn 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

**Jn 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**Jn 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Ex 20:3** You shall have no other gods before me.

**Image of Olive Tree** in Ro 11:11-24 where we are spoken of as wild olive tree branches grafted in to the cultivated olive tree.

**Ro 6:3-4** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Luther on Implication of Baptism:** It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance...

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# The Ten Commandments

*Preach Repentance*

*The Ten Commandments show us our sin and how much we need a Savior*

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## **Confess Together...**

I am the Lord your God.

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

The Second Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,  
or his manservant, or his maidservant,  
or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

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