

CONNECTED TO LIFE

June 10, 2018 John 15:1-8 by Bob Branch
Finding Jesus, Finding Life part 43

What does God really want?

BIG IDEA: “Because real, full and eternal life comes from me, your connection to me-*with* me is the key to everything that really matters.”

Prune, Abide, Depend. Ask, Bear Fruit.

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

“Israel is the vineyard of the Lord.” **Isaiah 5:7**

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

¹ **God’s PRUNING is normal and necessary**, even for faithful Christians!

“You’ve got everything doctrinally right, but your heart left a while ago. Return to me, or...” **Revelation 2:2-4**

⁴ Abide in me, as I also abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must abide in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in me.

² **Branches produce fruit because they Abide, they “stay CONNNECTED to me.”**

How do you stay connected?

Learn how to connect thru time-alone with God.

Word	Gather	Give & share
Prayer & silence	Connect	Serve
Worship	Learn & Grow	Engage
	Participate	

Abide: the verb form of *dwelling place*—home!

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

³ **Jesus calls us to connect, DEPEND and trust him with everything.**

⁶ If you do not abide in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁴ **Answered prayer is the outcome of living IN SYNC with Jesus.**

⁵ **You were BORN to bear fruit that will last!**

“The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” **Galatians 5:22-23** NLT