

# A FRUITFUL VINEYARD

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## Introduction: The Three Dimensions of Spiritual Fruitfulness

### A. The Upward Dimension

1. Remain in the “ True Vine ” (vv. 1, 2)
2. Remain in the “ I Am ” (vv. 1,5; Exodus 3:13-14)
3. Remain in the means of grace : The Word (v. 3-4), Prayer (v.7), Church Family (Hebrews 10: 24-25)

### B. The inward Dimension

1. The Paradox of Pruning (v.2) Pruning enhances rather than reduces fruit bearing. God’s instruments of pruning: The Word of Life; The Woes of Life
  - a. The Word: As a cleansing agent (v. 3); The Word as a mirror (James 2:21-22)
  - b. The Woes of life: relational (John. 15: 9-10,12, 14); transitional (James 2: 2-5, 12; Job 23:10)
2. The Warning: Remain in the Vine and bear fruit or face the consequences of spiritual fruitlessness and deterioration. The danger and process of spiritual deterioration:

probation (v.2, 5) → separation (v.5, 6) → dehydration (v.6) → combustion (v.6)

### C. The forward Dimension

1. From lack of obedience to a life of obedience learned from God’s pruning and testing (v. 14)
2. From a slave to a friend (v. 15)
3. From “my way” to “ God’s way ” in prayer attitude (vs.16)
4. From fruitlessness to a life of fruitfulness (vs. 8)

Quality fruit (Galatians 5: 22-23)

Quantity fruit (John 15: 16)

## Conclusion:

## TABLETALK STARTERS

(For family devotions and Life Group discussions)

1. What is “the word” that Jesus kept repeating throughout our text in John 15:1-6? What is Jesus trying to communicate? Elaborate.
2. Read John 15:3. Share a personal testimony on how the Word of God served as a cleansing agent (John 15:3) or as a mirror (James 2:21-23) in your life.
3. If you have a choice, what would you prefer as God’s instrument of pruning: The Word of Life or the Woes of Life (relational and transitional events of life)? Why?
4. How does attendance in Sunday Worship and Life Group enhance your connection both to Christ and fellow believers?
5. What are the three secrets of spiritual fruitfulness in John 15:1, 3, 5, 14, 16)?
6. What are the blessings of remaining in Christ? (John 15:1-3, 14, 16; Gal. 5:22-23)

PRAY