

*“The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” . . . he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

**-Hebrews 12:6,10-11**

*“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away.”*

## **I Might Be Cut \_\_\_\_\_**

**- John 15:2**

*“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.”*

**- John 15:6**

### **SO WHAT . . . . .**

A \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus (Bible study, prayer, worship, the body of Christ)

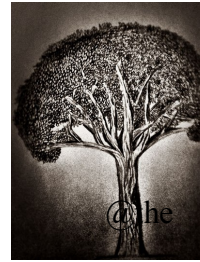
A \_\_\_\_\_ with gratitude the pruning process

A \_\_\_\_\_ God to examine your life—is there any fruit?

### **ACTION POINTS FOR FOR TODAY**

- Begin or re-commit to a regular daily habit of quiet times with God that involve reading/studying the Bible and prayer.
- Attend the next set of classes of the Growth Track—December 6. Class 201 GROW is specifically designed to help you learn spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible study.
- Attend a small group tonight. Join a small group by filling out an enrollment form online at [graceassembly.org](http://graceassembly.org).
- Invite someone to join you next week @thegraceag

*You can listen to or watch this message online at [www.graceassembly.org](http://www.graceassembly.org) or on the Grace Assembly of God app. If you have any questions about today's sermon you can follow up with Pastor Wayne on twitter @waynemurray777 or on email [wmurray@graceassembly.org](mailto:wmurray@graceassembly.org)*



## **The Living Tree**

*Images of Life Part 2*

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Grace Assembly of God

Pastor Wayne Murray

GraceAG

#ImagesOfLife

@waynemurray777

Images in the Bible that help us understand our relationship with God and each other . . .

**A body** (1 Corinthians 12)

**A living tree** (John 15)

**Bride of Christ** (Ephesians 5:25)

**A family** (Galatians 6:10)

Sermon Text:

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full ...”*

**-John 15:1-11 NKJV**

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the Gardener....”*

**- John 15:1 NIV**

## CONTEXT OF THESE VERSES

Every Jew, in Jesus' day, when they saw the picture of a vine would have thought "Israel". The vine was a symbol of Israel in the OT.

*"You brought us out of Egypt as if we were a vine. You forced out other nations and planted us in the land."*

- **Psalms 80:8** NCV

*"But I planted you as a special vine, as a very good seed. How then did you turn into a wild vine that grows bad fruit?"*

- **Jeremiah 2:21** NCV

## BIG IDEA

This picture of the Vine or The Living Tree illustrate the dynamics of our relationship with God.

## I Am A \_\_\_\_\_

*"I am the vine you are the branches..."* **John 15:5**

Paul uses this same picture of the vine and the branches in Romans 11  
*"grafted in"* – **Romans 11:19**

When we put our faith in Christ – we are grafted into the vine (Jesus)

Who am I In Christ

*"... justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is **in Christ Jesus**"*

- **Romans 3:24**

*"... the gift of God is eternal life **in Christ Jesus our Lord**"*

- **Romans 6:23**

*"... sanctified **in Christ Jesus** "*

- **1 Corinthians 1:2**

*"... if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new **creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**

*"It is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you..."*

- **Romans 11:18**

*"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine."*

- **John 15:4**

## I Will Bear \_\_\_\_\_

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."*

- **John 15:5**

What does that mean to bear fruit as a Christian?

*"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*

- **Galatians 5:22-23**

Bearing fruit means living a \_\_\_\_\_ Life.

*"I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some **fruit** among you **also**."*

- **Romans 1:13**

Bearing fruit means effective \_\_\_\_\_ in other people's lives.

## I Will Be \_\_\_\_\_

*"Every branch that bears fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit."*

- **John 15:2**

What does God use to prune me?

### 1. The Word of God

*"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."*

- **John 15:3**

*"The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword."*

- **Hebrews 4:12**

### 2. C \_\_\_\_\_

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

- **James 1:2-4**