

July 12, 2015

**ABIDING IN CHRIST: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST
JOHN 15:1-11**

The vine (Jesus Christ). John 15:1-2

- The vine **Israel**. Ps. 80:8; Jer. 2:21; Is. 51:1-7; Matt. 21:33-46
- The true vine **Jesus** Christ. John 15:1; 1:9; 6:32; 14:6; 1 Thess. 1:9; 1 John 3:20

The vine dresser (God the Father). John 15:1-3, 6

- The vine dresser “takes away”, “**lifts** up” and “throws away.” John 15:1-3, 6; 6:66; Matt. 27:1-4; 7:21; John 5:8-12; 8:59; 10:27-29
- The vine dresser **prunes** the branches. John 15:2; 1 Cor. 16:32; Heb. 12:7-11; 1 John 5:16; Rom. 8:28

The branches (believers). John 15:4-11

- To **abide** in Christ is to be connected with Him. John 15:4-5; 5:38; 8:31; 1 John 2:6, 19; John 10:27-29
- To abide in His power that produces His **fruit** in us. John 15:4-5; Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 4:13; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 4:4
- To abide means to have our **prayers** answered. John 15:7, 16; 1 John 5:14-15
- To abide means obeying His **Word** to glorify God. John 15:8-10; 14:15, 21, 23; 1 Cor. 10:31
- To abide means to receive His **joy**. John 15:11; 17:13; 3:29

OLDEST LIVING VINE

In Hampton Court, there is a grapevine that is reported to be the oldest living vine. It is over 230 years old. This grapevine has one root which is 3.6 meters (12 foot) round, and some of the branches are over 36.5 meters (120 foot) long. Despite its age the vine still produces 500 to 700 bunches (weighing 220 – 320 kg / 485 - 705 lb.) of grapes each year. Although some of the branches are 120 feet from the main root, they still bear the sweet and delicious fruit because they are connected to the vine. Each branch is connected directly to the stem and draws nourishment from it.