

Exit Plan John 15:12-17

The True Vine, the Gardener, the branches, and the fruit

- Jesus is the True Vine.
- God the Father is the Gardener.
- Jesus' disciples, including us, are the branches.
- Branches must stay connected to the True Vine in order to produce Jesus fruit.
- Branches that do not produce fruit are thrown into the fire.
- We produce fruit by remaining in the True Vine, Jesus.
- Bad trees produce bad fruit.
 - Matthew 7:18
 - Galatians 5:19-21

The most important thing we can do as Christians is to stay connected to: R____/Abide/Live in Jesus. Does it mean to maintain status quo and not grow?



The love of Christ

We as Jesus' disciples love each other the way He loves us.

- John 15:12
- John 13:34-35 new commandment not a suggestion
- Love is the most important "Jesus Fruit" from which everything else flows.

- **How is this different from the Golden Rule?** _____
- **How well do you love yourself?** _____
- "Jesus love" is "agape" love. It's unconditional and sacrificial.
 - John 15:13
- Jesus is the perfect example of "agape" love.
- We're called to this same "Jesus love" as we put the needs of others before our own.
 - 1 John 3:16-18
- "Jesus love" has hands and feet. What does it mean to say **Love is a verb?** _____
 - James 2:14-17 Faith without works is dead
- "Jesus love" carries the burdens of others.
 - Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens
- The "law of Christ" is to love with "Jesus love".
- **How can we pray to love the unlovable people in our lives?**
- **Lord help me love and forgive _____ as You do and see _____ as You do.** _____

- If we love God, we must love each other.
 - 1 John 4:20-21
- "Jesus love" is a choice.
- The prescription for loving one another is to remain in the Vine
- People will know we are Christians by our love for one another. le St. Patrick example

The friends of Christ

Friends of Jesus obey Him.

- John 15:14-15
- We are Jesus' friends because He chose us. READ IN AMPC
- As Jesus' friends, we know the Master's business.
- We are Jesus' friends by God's grace.
 - John 15:16, AMP
- As Jesus' friends, our purpose is to bear fruit.
- As Jesus' friends, we bear long-lasting fruit that remains.

- List some good and lasting fruit in each other's lives: write yours down here _____

The command of Christ

If Jesus says it more than once, it's important. Love each other!

- John 15:17

Who do you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from to love others better and prevent the barrier of unforgiveness to loving each other well? _____

- We must remain in the True Vine to produce Jesus Fruit.

Action Steps

- Examine yourself for the fruit of "Jesus love" in your life.
- Practice the disciplines of remaining in Christ: forgiveness obedience and repentance, Bible study, prayer, and worship. Keep short inventories.

John 15:12 memory verse to discuss with family

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12-17 AMPC

This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do. 15 I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.] 16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you. 17 This is what I command you: that you love one another.

1 John 3:16-18 AMPC

¹⁶ By this we know [and have come to understand the depth and essence of His precious] love: that He [willingly] laid down His life for us [because He loved us]. And we ought to lay down our lives for the believers. ¹⁷ But whoever has the ^[a]world's goods (adequate resources), and sees his brother in need, but has no compassion for him, how does the love of God live in him? ¹⁸ Little children (believers, dear ones), let us not love [merely in theory] with word or with tongue [giving lip service to compassion], but in action and in truth [in practice and in sincerity, because practical acts of love are more than words].