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John 15 Lisa Osteen Comes

John 15

THREE RELATIONSHIPS JESUS IS TEACHING ABOUT:

- 1. Our personal relationship with Jesus and the Father.
- 2. Our relationship with others.
- 3. Our relationship with the world.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS AND THE FATHER:

- 1. I am the True Vine, you are the branches, and My Father is the Gardener.
 - The Bible uses a vine or a vineyard as a symbol of God's people, Israel.
 - When Jesus came in the flesh, He declared that He was the True Vine.
 - It was no longer about being a Jew or Gentile.
 - Every person can choose to be in a personal relationship with Jesus and the Father. (*Ps. 80:8-16; Isaiah 5:1-7*)
- 2. There were grapevines everywhere in ancient Israel.
 - We must be rooted and planted in Jesus.
 - We must be totally dependent on Him.
 - He is the Vine which means He is our Source of life.

BEARING FRUIT:

Bearing fruit is mentioned 8 times throughout John 15.

- God desires for us to bear fruit, to become more fruitful, and to bear much fruit.
- As believers we should be growing and producing the fruit of the Spirit in our personal lives. (Galatians 5:22-23; II Peter 1:5-8)
- As we mature, we become more productive and effective in our lives and for the Kingdom of God.



PRUNE:

- Prune means to cut off or remove anything that is undesirable.
- Sometimes the pruning away in our lives is simply removing unnecessary growth.
- God works with us to trim away those things to allow us to grow spiritually.
- 3. One of the ways that God prunes us is through His Word.
 - As we read God's Word, it cleanses us and teaches us how to live a life that is pleasing to God.
- 4. Another way God prunes us is by speaking to us personally by the impression in your spirit from the Holy Spirit.
 - He will impress upon your spirit the things that we need to let go of or cut out of our lives.
 - It is important to listen to Him and work with Him.
 - When we allow God to prune us, we become vessels of silver and gold, useful for the Master's work.
 - When we produce much fruit, God is honored and glorified.

JESUS TAUGHT US THAT WE ARE TO STAY CONNECTED TO HIM:

- 1. John uses the word remain 11 times in John 15 to emphasize how important it is to remain in Jesus.
 - A branch has to stay connected to the vine in order to live and be fruitful.
 - Jesus wants to be a part of our lives! It is a mutual relationship. (Solomon 6:3)
 - If we don't remain connected to the Vine, we wither away. Wither means to dry up and lose vitality, force, or freshness. (Proverbs 18:14)
 - Jesus is our Source of life and joy and purpose. (John 5:19)



• To remain in Jesus is an act of our will. It is about the choice and decision that we make daily.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS:

- 1. When we stay connected to the True Vine who is Love we have the ability to love people like Jesus does.
 - We have the help of the Spirit. (*Romans 5:5*)
 - Obedience to God brings God's best in our lives.
- 2. Obedience brings true and lasting joy into our lives.
 - There is a fulness of joy that only comes in obeying and serving Jesus.
 - It keeps us in the boundaries of god's protection and safety.
- 3. A life of obedience develops into a true friendship with Jesus.
 - There is a fulness of joy that only comes in obeying and serving Jesus.
 - It keeps us in the boundaries of god's protection and safety. (Ex. 33:11; Ps. 25:14)

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

- 1. Jesus told us that we will be persecuted and there will be people who hate us simply because we serve Jesus.
 - We will face opposition in the spirit realm.
 - Satan is behind the spirit of the world.
 - It is a spirit of evil, godlessness, and selfishness.
- 2. We are called to testify about Jesus.
 - We are called to stand out as Children of Light and Ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The Holy Spirit in us will help us testify to the world and demonstrate God's power.
 - As you witness and pray for unbelievers, the Holy Spirit will persuade and convict people of sin and confirm the Word of God.
 - Stay focused and don't get caught up in the world, fear, or in arguments! (*II Tim.* 2:23-24)