JOHN GRACE and TRUTH

"The Vine Messiah"

John 14:15-31

How do we grow spiritually?

JOHN

1. The Vine – 1-3

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser."

2. The Branches – 4-7

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

3. The Fruit – 8-17

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit..."

1. The Vine – 1-3

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser."

Jesus is source and structure of growth

Instead of other failed and false vines

JOHN

"You will bring them in and **plant** them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established." - Exodus 15:17

"Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved! You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. ... Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself."

- Psalm 80:7-8, 14-15

JOHN

"Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes ... For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!"

- Isaiah 5:1-2

JOHN

"Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?"

- Jeremiah 2:21

"Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard planted by the water, fruitful and full of branches by reason of abundant water... But the vine was plucked up in fury, cast down to the ground; the east wind dried up its fruit; they were stripped off and withered. As for its strong stem, fire consumed it."

- Ezekiel 19:10, 12

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Jesus's followers share life in him

Our role and responsibility is to abide

JOHN

"Therefore, "remaining in him" is not a state of rest, an adherence to what the disciples have already received in Jesus solely to conserve it, but an adherence to him as the vital source of help and strength in order to bear much fruit."

- Herman Ridderbos

3. The Fruit – 8-17

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit..."

This is the natural and necessary outcome

Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy ... asking

JOHN

"One another" thereby get all the emphasis, obviously not in an exclusive sense but in order to point to love as the great principle in the building and maintaining of communion and as the criterion of God's community in the world, the "vine" he has planted."

- Herman Ridderbos

How do we grow spiritually?

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."