



Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another
Unit III: Godly Love among Believers

Lesson Titles:
The Love Connection
 (Faith Pathway Bible Studies)
Abiding Love
 (Townsend Press Sunday School
 Commentary)

LESSON 10 • November 8, 2020

Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another
Unit III: Godly Love among Believers

Background Scripture: John 15:4-17

Print Passage: John 15:4-17

Key Verse(s):

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

(John 15:5, KJV)

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“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5, NIV)

Questions to Consider:

1. What is required to produce **spiritual** fruit?
2. What is the mark of Christian discipleship?

Lesson Aims:

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Comprehend how the metaphor of the vine and the branches applies to Jesus and those who follow Him.
- Yearn for a more intimate, life-giving relationship with Jesus.
- Commit to keeping Christ’s commandments and so abide in His love.

Lesson Context:

- After instituting the New Covenant and teaching the importance of loving, humble service and unconditional love for one another, Jesus sought to encourage and comfort His disciples as He shared the promise of the **Holy Spirit** in light of His imminent departure.
- Jesus’ desire was to prepare His disciples for life after His return to His Father.
- Jesus is teaching the necessity of their maintaining an intimate connection to Him like a branch to its vine.
- Using the metaphor of the true vine would have been something that would be understandable to all who lived at that time. Grapevines were common in Palestine.

Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

I. Abiding in Christ Produces Fruit (John 15:4-8)

- Our fruitfulness and continued growth can only come through our **abiding** in Jesus Christ. We must be connected to the vine and that is Jesus Christ.

- There is the promise of answered prayer for those who maintain intimate fellowship with Him. This promise is conditional and depends on prayers' being offered to God that are in His will.
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II. Love Perfected (John 15:9-13)

- Jesus assured His disciples that He loved them and that His love for them was like the love He shared with His Father.
 - Loving Jesus equates to obeying Him.
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III. The Basis of Friendship (John 15:14-17)

- Jesus explicitly and conditionally identified His disciples as His friends.
 - Jesus identified His disciples as His friends because He had shared what He had learned from the Father with them.
 - Loving one another is the mark of Christian discipleship.
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Lesson Summary:

- We must purposefully maintain an obedient fellowship with Christ and love each other unselfishly, sacrificially, and unconditionally.
 - As Christians, we have been chosen and appointed by Jesus to bear fruit – that is, to spread the wonderful Gospel as our mission to others.
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What do you think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

In view of this section of today's lesson, what steps are necessary for the community of faith to emphasize building a relationship with Christ rather than church membership?

What are some visible examples of self-sacrificing love you have observed?

What are the responsibilities and privileges of being a friend of God's?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
