

“I will Build My Church” - Part 12

John 15:1-8



Finale: “Healthy, What Is It?”

We must be careful that we don't seek to equate church health with how close we match the numbers and figures of the 'super' churches...

Big Idea: “since Jesus Christ is the one who builds His church, we must submit to the process of becoming healthy as we abide in Him!”

Vine And Vinedressor (15:1)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.” (John 15:1 NIV)

- Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God became the true vine, in which He alone, through His sinless life, His substitutionary death, burial, and victorious resurrection demonstrated His power over sin and death, thus enabling Him to give life to His vine, the church!
- The Father is called the vinedresser or gardener, the one responsible for the vine.

Work Of The Vinedressor (15:2-4,6)

“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.” (John 15:2-4, 6 NIV)

- The word ‘remain’ (*meno*) = ‘to stay in a given place’
 - Present tense = continual action
 - Active voice = the subject is doing the action
 - Subjunctive mood = possibility that exists when the action takes place
- The Father, the gardener, performs two tasks; He purges and prunes.
 - Purges professing believers who are not processing true faith in Christ
 - Prunes those who are already bearing fruit

Fruit For The Vinedressor (15:5,8)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:5, 8 NIV)

- Fruit = “...showing yourselves to be my disciples.”
- The church of Jesus Christ is to look like Jesus Christ. We are to drink in the nutrition of His word, submit ourselves to the trials of His pruning so that we bear the His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.
- Ultimately, a fruit-bearing vine glorifies the vinedresser.

So What?

As we end this series on Church Health, let's ask some searching questions...

1. What is it that you want in a church?
2. Why do you come to church?
3. What part will you play in making our visible, local church a healthy church?

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