



The Gospel of John Series Part 7
“The Vine and The Branches”
Philip Harrell/Worship Pastor
March 31, 2019
Key Passage: John 15:1-11

Joy is not a requirement of Christian discipleship, it is a consequence. It is not what we have to acquire in order to experience life in Christ; it is what comes to us when we are walking in the way of faith and obedience. We come to God because none of us have it within ourselves, except momentarily, to be joyous. Joy is a product of abundance; it is the overflow of vitality. It is life working together harmoniously.”

- Eugene Peterson

Jesus invites each of us as individuals and as a community to...

1. Understand and embrace God’s and our place in the metaphor

2. Stay connected to the vine

- It is not possible for a branch to bear fruit independent of the vine or the other branches connected to the vine.
 - Through a life group
 - Through Sunday morning worship
 - Through personal moments connecting with God
 - Through doing the things that God has created us to do

3. Willingly submit ourselves to the Father’s pruning in our life

- Pruning a grapevine is the only hope for the long-term survival of the grapevine and its only hope to bear fruit all of its days.
 - We must be willing to endure the pain to change our direction when God redirects us.
 - We must give up some old growth to make space for the new fruit God is preparing in our lives.
 - We must trust that what God has in our future is greater than our past.
 - We must not give up growing till our race is over.

4. Live life in the blessing of God’s joy

