

JOHN

Chapter 15

Note from Kathy

I did a bit of research on growing grapes and found it is best to plant your vine in the early spring. A strong trellis or arbor will be needed to support the growing vine. And it is very important to select a site with full sun. As I read this I could not help but think how applicable that really is. It is always best to come to Christ as young as possible, before we are set in our ways. It is wise to surround yourself with strong Christians who can support and encourage proper growth. If we are to grow and produce abundant fruit we must stay in God's presence so his light can shine on us.



Observation

1. Once again in this chapter we see Jesus refer to himself as "I am." Fill in the chart one last time.

	Verses	"I AM"
1	John 6:35	
2	John 8:12	
3	John 10:7,9	
4	John 10:11,14	
5	John 11:25	
6	John 14:6	
7	John 15:1,5	

True or Truth

Genuine, pure, real faithful, honest and exact

Clean (katharos - Greek)

The Strong's Concordance defines clean as: physically purified by fire or like a vine cleansed by pruning and so prepared to bear fruit.

James 5:16

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

John 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends."

John 15:14-17

"You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other."

2. How does Jesus describe himself in verses 1-5? What are believers instructed to do? What are we promised if we follow the instructions given to us?
3. Who is the gardener mentioned in John 15:1? What does the gardener do in the process of caring for the vine for maximum productivity?
4. Once again in verse 4 Jesus says those who are his are "clean." This is the Greek word "katharos." According to the Strong's Concordance definition provided, how are the followers of Jesus made clean?
5. What is the spiritual lesson taken from nature mentioned in verse 4?
6. In verse 7 Jesus gives an amazing promise to those who allow their minds and hearts to stay focused on and to be transformed by Him. A branch that remains on the vine receives its nourishment and strength from the vine. Read James 5:16 to go along with this promise. What is the promise given in verse 7?
7. In verse 8 Jesus said bearing fruit is an identifying mark of a true disciple. Our heavenly Father receives glory from our praise, our worship and also from our _____.

Jesus is our example. What did he do in order to bring God glory? It might be helpful to read the extra verses found on page 78 before you write your answer: John 5:17,19,30; John 6:29; John 8:29; John 10:37-38; John 11:4; John 12:27-28; John 12:49-50 and John 14:11-14.
8. There are many ways to express our love for another person. Jesus told his disciples that he was about to express his love for mankind in the greatest of all ways. John 15:13 declares the greatest of all expressions of love is _____.
Is there any greater gift?
9. Previously, we have seen Jesus teaching, leading and commanding his followers. They have referred to him as Teacher, Master and Lord. Notice the comfortable and personal way he refers to them in John 15:14-17. James 2:23 speaks of Abraham in this same way, "...and he was called God's friend." What did Jesus call his disciples?

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”³⁷ Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself;’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

John 15:12, 17

¹²*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*
¹⁷*“This is my command: Love each other.”*

10. Jesus' followers have been chosen by him and set apart for his purpose. What did he say was his purpose for each follower?
11. Read Matthew 22:36-40 and John 15:12 and 17. Jesus repeats his command. What was the command?
12. We should not be surprised if we suffer because we are Christian. What did Jesus say was the reaction of the world to him? How did they treat him?
13. Did those who hated and persecuted Christ have any legitimate reason for their behavior? Read John 15:20-23.
14. In verse 26 Jesus tells his followers that he is going away, but that he will not be leaving them alone. Who will he be sending?

Application

1. We have filled in the “I Am” chart several times over the last several chapters. This is not merely a list for us to observe but truth we are to absorb. John, the disciple who wrote this book, wanted us to know the Lord in such a close and intimate way that our life would be forever changed. Take a moment to reflect on these important statements from our Lord. As a believer in Jesus Christ, consider what each of his “I AM” statements means to you and briefly state your thoughts.

Jesus said	As a believer this has great meaning because...
I AM the Bread of Life	
I AM the Light of the World	
I AM the Door of the sheep	
I AM the Good Shepherd	

John 15:7

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

John 15:5 & 8

*“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.”
8“*This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*”*

Jesus said	As a believer this has great meaning because...
I AM the Resurrection and the Life	
I AM th Way, the Truth, and the Life	
I AM the true Vine	

2. In Observation question 6 we looked at an amazing promise Jesus gave to his followers. What will our prayers be filled with if our minds and hearts remain focused on Him?

Over and over Jesus told those with him that he only did the Father’s will. He only spoke what the Father told him to say. And he only did what the Father had asked him to do. This is Jesus’ example for us to follow. What are you focused on?

Are you remaining in him and allowing his words to remain in you? Give an example.

3. In verses 5 and 8, Jesus told his followers that they would “bear much fruit” and in doing so they would show that they truly were his disciples. What fruit do you see in your life that brings joy to your heavenly Father’s heart and brings him glory?

4. In John 15:15 Jesus told his followers that he would no longer refer to them as servants but as friends. What are some of the differences between a servant and a friend?

Is this a new truth for you?

How might knowing and living in this truth change your daily activities, thoughts and conversations?

5. Believers are commanded to love one another as Christ loves us. What words can we use to describe Jesus’ love for us?

John 15:26 NIV

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.”

John 15:26 AMP

“But when the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who comes (proceeds) from the Father, He (Himself) will testify regarding me.”

John 15:26 MSG

“When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—he will confirm everything about me.”

Advocate or Comforter

The word Advocate or Comforter is the Greek word *Parakletos*, meaning the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom.

6. Write a few examples of you loving others like Jesus?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

7. Think of the many relationships you have with other believers. Are you married to a believer?

Are your children believers?

How about your neighbors—are they believers?

Why do you think Jesus is so serious about believers loving one another?

8. Jesus said he was not going to leave his followers on their own. He told the disciples he would send the Advocate or Comforter. Look at a few different translations of verse 26 in the sidebar to gain a greater insight into the one being sent. Share an example in your small group of the Holy Spirit at work in your life this week. How has he helped you come to a deeper knowledge of the truth or strengthened you?

9. In verses 18-25 Jesus very clearly states the feelings of the world, the ungodly multitude, toward him. They hated Jesus and persecuted him. What kind of treatment can believers expect from those who do not love our Lord?

Have you experienced hatred or persecution because you are a Christ follower? Share it in your group. What was your response?

10. What is your take-away from John 15?

Look back over the 27 verses and choose one truth to focus on this week. Look for ways to put it into practice. If you are comfortable, share it with your group. You never know when something you share will be just the thing that speaks to another person’s heart.

Chapter 15 Extra Bible Verses

John 5:17, 19, 30 - ¹⁷My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working. ¹⁹Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." ³⁰By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 6:29 - Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

John 8:29 - The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.

John 10:37-38 - Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. ³⁸But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.

John 11:4 - When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

John 12:27-28 - "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

John 12:49-50 - For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.

John 14:11-14 - Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.