

JOHN 15:1-17

- *Recap:* last week, we spoke about the fact that ***Fruit is everything!***. Our motives must be deeply spiritual and not fleshly. Vs1 If Jesus is the true vine, there will be false ones. Vs1. God is the vine dresser, not us. vs2. God “lifts up” or restores branches not bearing fruit. God wants us bearing more fruit. vs3. We’re clean. ie. ready for God’s use.
- This week we look at vs 4. *vs4 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”*
- Abiding is a longterm commitment
- Probably everything involving God’s work, will take way longer than most of us are willing to endure.

JAMES 1:1-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

2 PETER 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- Bearing fruit means **“caring”** for fruit
- Caring for fruit means fighting to protect the fruit. In other words, vigorously guard what’s in your heart from God:

PROVERBS 4:23 (NKJV) ***Keep*** your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

(MSG) keep diligent watch, over your heart.

(NLTSE) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What due you understand a longterm commitment to be?
2. What did Jesus mean by saying “abide”?
3. How do we “care” for the fruit of the Spirit?
4. What steps do you take, to care for your fruit?