

You are the Branches
Don Butera, Missionary to Indonesia
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John 15:1-8

I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. 5 Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Four Elements:

5. The Gardener. - The Father
6. The Vine. - Jesus
7. The Branches - Followers of Jesus
8. Fruit. - Our reason for being

The Gardener tends the Garden.

The Vine supplies the Branches with what they need.

The Branches only purpose is to produce Fruit

The Fruit is for others

Principles:

1. Without connection, we will produce nothing that the Gardener sees as valuable.
2. The Branches' reward for producing Fruit is "pruning."
3. Producing Fruit gains the attention & ear of the Gardener.
4. We produce Fruit by abiding in the Vine.