

“I am the vine,
you are the branches”

Context of grapevines in Christ's time

Vineyards were common and familiar to Christ's listeners, many people would work in them

Productive fruiting grapevines were good, however vines weren't useful for much else

In the Old Testament God's people were often referred to as a vine; and the wayward attitude of his people described as an unproductive vine

The symbolism of God being the owner of the vine(yard) was understood



I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 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.

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. 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. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Gardeners...

...choose plants carefully, plants that will yield good fruit; God chose you, in God's eyes you're the best there is (Jeremiah 2:21)

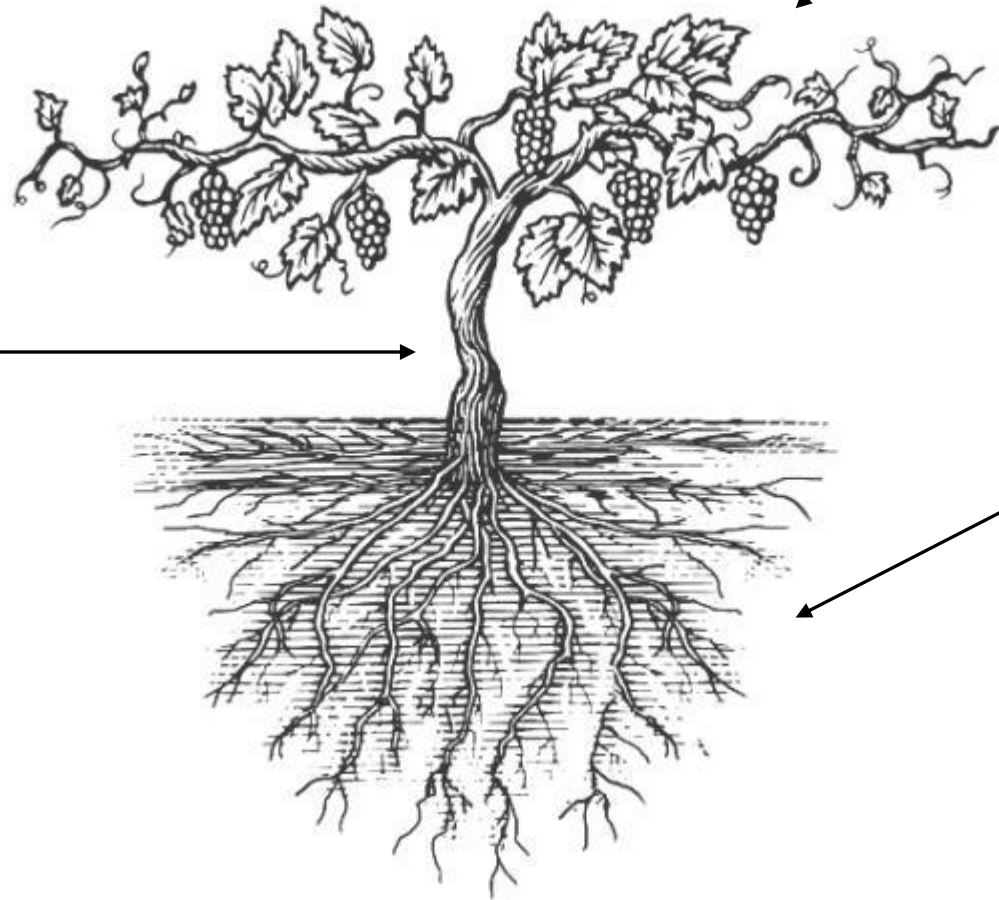
...position their plants in the best location; God has positioned you uniquely in this place

...provide for plants, generously investing in them; God has given to us richly, our salvation through Christ, day-to-day blessings and specific gifts

...cherish each plant, wanting each to thrive; God loves us beyond measure (Psalm 103:11)



The vine...



...supplies its branches with nutrients and water so they flourish; Christ gave us the Holy Spirit helping us to flourish

...supports its branches; Christ supports us by interceding on our behalf to God (Hebrews 7:25)

...remains hidden in part below ground; Christ, now in heaven alongside his Father is not seen, but he can be seen in us, if we are willing

The vine branches - first type

Withered and useless

Separate to the vine



Burned in the fire

Never produce fruit

The 'fruit' of the vine



The fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5: 22-23)

A Christian life, prayerful, generous, reflecting the character of Christ

Sharing the gospel of Christ, and bringing others into his kingdom (Matthew 28:19)

The vine branches – second type

May be growing strongly,
drawing sustenance from
the vine, but yielding no
fruit

May be weakly attached to
the vine, likely to separate
from the vine

God will cut them off the
vine, and throw on the fire



The vine branches – third type



Pruning of healthy productive plants done to control wayward growth, encourage better flowering and fruiting, ensure the plant is well balanced, to remove sick or unhealthy parts

Good gardeners know when to prune, use the right tools, don't damage the plant and prune using the correct method

God prunes the vine branches for all the same reasons



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V5Tfd_1J2Y&feature=youtu.be



Another type of branch

If we desire to be part of Christ we can be grafted in to him and become one of his branches

All who call on Christ's name will be saved (Romans 10:13)



Jesus, the one true vine



God's people Israel were referred to as a vine, but became unfaithful, Jesus remains true to God, and is the true vine of God

We are each a branch, although we each go different ways we are all part of one body, supported by Christ at the centre. We cannot function without Christ

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