



## COMFORT FOR TROUBLED HEARTS "Comfort Through Relationship" John 15:1-16

No. 2120

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We have noted so far that human beings are made to function on the basis of trust and love. Deficiencies in either area lead to deficiencies in life. Now we note that we are created for relationship to the Lord and to each other. The depth of relationship we enjoy determines the quality of life we experience.

### I. Recognizing the Relationship.

- A. Based on divine choice. v. 16
  - 1. Jesus is the Vine. v. 1
    - a. The "I Am."
    - b. The "true..." cf. Psalm 80:8-16
  - 2. The Father is the Vinedresser. v. 1
    - a. Caring for the Vine. v. 2
    - b. Pruning the branches.
  - 3. Disciples are the branches.
    - a. Chosen to bear fruit. v. 16
    - b. Cut off if fruitless. v. 2
    - c. Cleaned if fruitful.
- B. Based on divine cleansing. v. 3
  - 1. Cleansed by Word.
  - 2. Cleansed by washing. 13:10 ("But not all of you.")
- C. Based on divine connections.
  - 1. The branch connected to the Vine. v. 5
  - 2. The Vine living in the branch.

### II. Responding to the Relationship.

- A. Remaining in Christ. v. 4
  - 1. Maintaining the relationship.
  - 2. Protecting the relationship.
- B. Retaining His words. v. 7
- C. Remaining in His love. v. 9
  - 1. By a life of obedience.
  - 2. By emulating His example.

### III. Reflecting the Relationship.

- A. Genuine joy. v. 11
  - "My joy"—enjoying life like He did.
- B. Genuine friendship. vv. 14-15
  - 1. With the Lord.
  - 2. With the disciples.
    - a. Sharing life...laying it down in love.
    - b. Sharing secrets...everything I learned, I shared.
- C. Genuine fruit. v. 16
  - 1. Going out to bear fruit.
  - 2. Going out of the way to make sure it is real. 13:10  
("But not all of you.")

**Points to ponder:** Am I sure that I am "in the Vine"? Do I recognize that the Father's pruning is beneficial? What kind of lasting fruit is evidence of my discipleship?