

## The True Vine Part 2

*“12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.” (John 15:12-17 KJV)*

After the introduction that we have from *John 15:1-11*, we understood being a disciples of Jesus, that we need to be fruitful and we need to bear much fruit and that will come true when we abide in Him, when we abide in the vine that is His church, and when we abide in His Word and in His love as we can review that here:

**A. To abide in Him:** *Is to be persistent in following Him and His instructions to us.*

**B. To abide in the vine:** *Is to remain in His church, and be willing to be mature and growing in our relationship with one another. We are called to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3 KJV) We are not only accountable to God but we are also accountable to one another. We are responsible to one another and we need to give a keen account in our relationship to one another before God.*

**C. To Abide in His Word:** *That will be the standard for us so we will be aware of how we set our lives, decisions, and our relationships with one another right based on His Word.*

**D. To abide in His love:** *Is to obey His commandments that we can see and read in God’s Word.*

Now the Lord command to us is this: *“12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” (John 15:12 KJV) Now as we abide in His love we need to love one another; and it will be as well as through the obeying of His commands.*

*Romans 13:8-10*, and *1 Corinthians 13:1-7*, supply us of good teaching about what love is all about.

*“8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10 KJV)* Here Paul admonished us that we

should love one another and he defined love through the Scripture, that *“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour.” (Romans 13:10 KJV)* and *“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Romans 13:9 KJV) We should love one another as we love ourselves and we can fulfill that when we stop harming one another and we do that when we do not commit adultery, when we do not kill, when we do not harm others, when we do not steal, when we do not bear false witness, and when we do not covet.* *“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Romans 13:9 KJV) As we do not want others to do all such mentioned to us, then we should not do all such to others.*

**Thou shalt not commit adultery:** Even lustful look and pornography is adultery. Boyfriend and girlfriend, extramarital affairs, second marriage, divorce and remarriage are all adultery

**Thou shalt not kill:** Even speaking bad words and fighting is murder.

**Thou shalt not steal:** Taking things belong to others without their permissions is stealing.

**Thou shalt not bear false witness:** Telling lies and slandering.

**Thou shalt not covet:** Envyng others of what they received from God.

*“1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-7 KJV) Here Apostle Paul defines to us love in more clear way that point to us that our attitude is of prime importance.*

*“1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ” (1 Corinthians 13:1 KJV)* Love has no relation with the Holy Spirit baptism and speaking in tongues. *Even if you are having being baptized with the Holy Spirit that does not assured that you have love and that does not replace that you need to have love. That will make us more cautious now how to look into ourselves with what Jesus command.* *“That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” (John 15:12 KJV)*

*“2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ” (1 Corinthians 13:2 KJV) Even if you are serving with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that does not indicate that you have love. Even if you prophecy and declare what will take place in the future and declare the will of God, even you have great and deep understanding, even you have knowledge and you have great faith that does not ensured that you have love. As well as, all that does not replace that you need to have love.*

*“3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:3 KJV) Even if*

you are a person who give much to the poor and even if you are willing to be persecuted and surrendered your body to the flame, that does not ensure that you have love and that does not replace that you need to have love.

Love or charity has the following characters that we really need to be sure to have them in our lives, personalities and attitudes.

**“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-7 KJV)**

- **Charity suffereth long:** Charity or love is willingness to suffer for Christ and for others; charity or love is non willingness to give up. Are you a person who is easily give up? Keep on exercise yourself through the trials that you are passing through, God through these trials is teaching you to have long suffering.
- **Charity is kind:** Charity or love is willingness to do the good work of God to others and perform to them services that will aid them in their lives.
- **Charity envieth not:** Charity or love is not to be jealous of others when they have things you do not have, or have things better than what you have.
- **Charity vaunteth not itself:** Charity or love is not boasting, and not self displaying. Charity or love is not a show off.
- **Charity is not puffed up:** Charity or love is not to be proud.
- **Doth not behave itself unseemly:** Charity or love is not acting improperly. The word ‘unseemly,’ the Greek word of it is ‘Aschemoneo’, is repeated in one more other place, **“But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.” (1 Corinthians 7:36 KJV)** Here what we can understand that love does not do something improper and do not miss to do something proper.
- **Charity seeketh not her own:** Charity or love is not selfish.
- **Charity is not easily provoked:** Charity or love is not easily angered. You should know how to control yourself and not to react or do something that brings disturbance and distractions to others.
- **Charity thinketh no evil:** Charity or love is a pure mind; a mind that is clean and not planning or thinking evil toward others.
- **Charity rejoiceth not in iniquity:** Charity or love is not happy or glad to do bad and evil things. Charity or love is not happy if evil fall on someone.
- **Rejoiceth in the truth:** Charity or love is glad to discover and know the truth and the reality. We study the Word of God in the Bible so that we can discover the truth, so we will know how to live for God in obeying His Word.
- **Charity beareth all things:** Charity or love is willingness to persevere to bear the pressure of life and the ministry of God.
- **Charity believeth all things:** Charity or love is willingness to believe what God’s Word reveal or show. Charity or love is willing to believe what Jesus’s Word reveal and show.

- **Charity hopeth all things:** Charity or love is expressing the trust on God and on His Word, and having the hope that God will turn things for better on your behalf as you are willing to obey and follow God.
- **Charity endureth all things:** Charity or love is to remain steadfast, even if you are left alone. There may be a time that no one will be left with you and you are alone. These are painful moments, but still, at these moments God wants you to endure and persevere till the end.

**“That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” (John 15:12 KJV)** We need to love one another as Jesus loved us. So the life and the example of Jesus is a way for us to follow. As well as what Jesus had done to you and the way He treated you can give you a clue of how to love one another.

If you are puzzled and does not know what to do with certain people or with certain relationship, then ask yourself, if Jesus would be in my place what He will do? That will give you the clue for the solution that you need now in your life. To be a disciples or followers of Christ, to love one another is an urgent need that we need to meet in our lives so that Christ would be pleased with us.

**“13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13 KJV)** Jesus here clearly defined love as to be non self seeking and even beyond that. Love is here is willingness to lay down your lives for others. You are called to lay down your future, your ambitions and your plans in order to follow Jesus. We are called to lay down our time and efforts and resources for the sake of the Lord to others. Certain times you are called to lay down your life for sinners or for people who had harmed you and had taken advantage of you. We should not regret that we had done good, even to such kind of people, because we had done just what we had been asked of God.

But that does not mean that along the way we are called to be scapegoat! Let us read again what Jesus said: **“13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13 KJV)** Jesus said, “that a man lay down his life for his friends.” That does not mean we need to lay down our lives for our friends, but that mean we need to find people who are friends of Jesus or those who are potentially will become friends of Jesus. So here, we are called to have discretion and stewardship in our ministry and in our service to God.

**“14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” (John 15:14 KJV)** Jesus would accept us to be His friends if we obey His commandments. Obeying also His commandments is the way that we need to love one another. So the ways of the world to show love in form of spoiling people, flattering people, boasting, condoning sins, favoritism or compromising are renounced by Christ.

**“15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” (John 15:15 KJV)** Jesus here is calling us friends and not servants. He is calling us friends because He is not only commanding us, but as well as He had explained to us the truth and the reality of what He is doing and what level He want us to be and to do. We are called into this friendship, and we need to understand the grace of God that reached

to us to make us and keep us friends with Jesus, and to be in friendship with Him and with those who are friends with Him.

***“16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” (John 15:16 KJV)*** We cannot escape the calling of God. Christ had chosen us and had ordained to us where we need to be. *You cannot change the place or the people that God had called you and placed you with. God wants you to bring fruit to Him in the place that He had put you and not in other places. That is you need seriously to be willing to change your plans and priorities and willing to give up or put aside other things or other works that Christ had not caused you or called you to do.*

*Every one of us has calling and appointment and we should not leave behind or put aside and start to do other things. God in the same place that He had placed you, needs you to bear much fruit, and fruit that will remain and last. You will be able to do that if you abide in Him, in His vine that is His church, in His Word, and in His love.*

***“16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” (John 15:16 KJV)*** *When you go along what Jesus had appointed you to do, you will bear much fruit and the Lord shall answer your prayers and shall give you what you need from Him, for this is for the glory of God our Father when we bear much fruit.*

***My dear and beloved: “These things I command you, that ye love one another.” (John 15:17 KJV)*** *To love one another is to abide in His love, and to abide in His love we need to obey His commandments that we read in God’s Word and what the Holy Spirit is telling us to do.*

***My Prayer:*** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word to me, and thank you for reminding me to abide in your love and to walk in love and to love one another.

Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me how to love others and how to lay down my life for others.

Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I renounce them all.

Lord as I renounce my sins and I commit myself to the principle of love that I learned from this message. Lord give me more of the characters of love that I learned today from your Word, to be more patient and willing to suffer long, to be kind; not to envy others, not to boast, not to be proud and arrogant, not to behave unseemly, not to be selfish and seek only my own interest, not to be easily provoked, not to think evil, not to rejoice in sin, but to rejoice in the truth. Lord help me to bear all things, to believe all things in your Word, to hope all things based on your Word and to endure all things.

Lord thank you for you had chosen me and had ordained me in this place and with the people that you had put me with to go and live my life for you bearing the fruit that will last for every. Lord I ask you to help me to be more fruitful and to let the fruit of Holy Spirit to appear in my life. Lord sustain me and provide for me. Above all keep sending me your Word that will remind me and that will help me to grasp all of what you need me to do for you and for one another and how to love them. Lord answer me as you promised me, ***“That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” (John 15:16 KJV)*** I trust you that you will neither leave me, nor forsake me, I trust you that you will answer my prayers that you will complete your work in my life and that I will bear much fruit and fruit that will last forever.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principle of this message of yours. Lord bless them and make them more loving to you, obeying your commands and loving one another. Lord I pray for them to have and to develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit so they will be more loving to one another and more fruitful. Lord I pray for them to be maturing and growing in your grace, and that we as a Church of God will reach your expectation and what you want to see in our lives. Lord I pray for more fruit of the Holy Spirit to be manifested in our lives and in our relationship with one another.

Lord I pray that you will fill us with your Holy Spirit and give to us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we need in our lives so that we can carry your love to others, and so also we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord protect us from the evil one and provide our needs to continue to serve you. Lord answers our prayers so that we will be bearing much fruit that will remain forever for your glory. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.