

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 15:1-17)

### 1. Have you ever pruned/trimmed a plant (maybe even a grape vine)?

How did you know it needed pruning/trimming?

How did you determine which parts to remove and which parts to keep?

Did you remove anything by mistake that had a negative consequence?

How did your pruning impact the growth/development of the plant?

Did you learn anything from the experience for future prunings/trimmings?

### 2. Consider Jesus' description of Himself in the first few verses of this chapter:

How does the above situation help you better understand Jesus' statement about himself in John 15:1-5?

Read Isaiah 5:1-7 - how does this description help us better understand that Jesus is "The True Vine"?

How does it also help us make sense of role of the Father as the vinedresser?

Based upon this, what is the requirement for us in order that we might bear more fruit in our lives?

What does Jesus warn will happen if we do not bear fruit in our lives?

What is the outcome for those who do not abide in Christ? (See verses 2, 5, & 6 for help)

With this being the case: what does it look like - practically - for us to "abide" or "remain" in Christ, the True Vine?

As you consider this, how are you doing at remaining in Christ (staying connected to the Vine)?

(If you're struggling to know, ask the Lord to show you where He's producing fruit in/through you).

If you don't see fruit, prioritize time with the Lord and ask Him to strengthen you to remain in Him!

### 3. Consider verses 7-11

What motivates our "remaining/abiding" in Jesus?

What are the prerequisites Jesus states to the disciples in order for "whatever you wish [to] be done for you?"

Why are those so important when it comes to how the Lord will respond to the requests of His disciples?

What does Jesus say is the proof of those who are His disciples? (See verse 8)

How does this reveal our love for Him (as He's also stated as recorded in previous chapters of John)?

How does verse 9 encourage us to pursue life in the Spirit and greater fruit in our lives?

How do verses 10 & 11 relate to one another?

How do verses 1-10 accomplish what the Lord desires for us in verse 11?

How does the statement in verse 11 reveal the source of joy in our lives, and the desire of Jesus for His followers?

(consider John 10:10 as well).

In light of this, how should we view the commandments of the Lord in our lives?

How does our view of His commandments also reveal the disposition of our hearts toward the Lord?

How can we better display AND experience the joy of the Lord in our lives according to these verses?

4. Consider verses 12-17:

How does the command in verse 12 relate to the "New command" given by Jesus in John 13?

As you consider the character and nature of Jesus Himself, why is this command so important to Him for His followers?

How does Jesus demonstrate His incomparable love for His disciples (ALL of His disciples throughout all eternity)?

(hint - read verse 13) :)

How does Jesus relate to the disciples differently than before, and what's happened to lead to this changed relationship?

How do Jesus words to the disciples in verse 16 reveal His desire for His disciples, and His role in leading them?

How do His words here specifically encourage and challenge your heart today?

Does it comfort you to know that He has chosen His disciples, even if it seems as though His disciples chose Him?

How does this encourage us when we're struggling in our faith (and questioning various items)?

How should all of these commands recorded so far in John 15 motivate us all the more to love one another?

5. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. If we remain in Christ, we WILL bear much fruit!
2. Apart from Christ we can do nothing!
3. God's pruning may be painful, but it's for our good!
4. If you belong to Jesus, know that He's chosen you!
5. Love for each other is a byproduct of life in Jesus!