

Problem:

faking fruit

- Mark 11:12-14 - in their day it was fake righteousness through the law
in the evangelical church today I believe it is - individualistic spirituality

Text:**Genuine branches**

John 15:1 **"I am the true vine**, and my Father is the vinedresser. (one of last I Am statements)

John 15:2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

(1) false vine (15:6) - psalm 80:7-19; Jer 2:20-22; Isaiah 5:1-7

true vine - Isaiah 11:1-2 -> Matt 3:16

*(2) replaces fruitless branches - Matt 3:7-10; 7:15-20; 21:33-43- takes away = thrown away
provides new opportunities for fruit bearing -(James 1:2-4)*

(3) who were not saved - John 13:10 (judas); 1 John 2:18-19; Rev 14:14-20

bear genuine fruit

John 15:4 **Abide** (40x's in John) **in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it **abides in the vine**, neither can you, unless you **abide in me**.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me and I in him**, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (strong double negative)

John 15:6 **If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away** like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

John 15:7 **If you abide in me, and my words abide in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:8 **By this my Father is glorified**, that you bear much fruit and so **prove to be my disciples**.

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love**.

John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

(9-10) fruit = sacrificial love for one another that brings glory to God- John 13:31-35; 15:12-17

(8) proves genuineness - 1 Jn 4:7-8, 20-21; 3:11-24;

leading to genuine Joy

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

joy - up to this point the noun for joy has been used only once in this gospel - John 3:29 about the bridegroom - after this point joy becomes a big focus and it relates to the true meaning of the sacrifice looming large in front of them -

obedience, sacrificial love, fruit bearing, being pruned all seem to be rather painful and demanding words that scarcely suggest desirability but that is because they are not the chief end - Joy is.

our joy is tied up with Christ and one another 1 John 1:1-4;

in the genuine church - Rev 2:1-5

application: body, bride, building?

abiding in Christ surely means more than church involvement but it doesn't mean less.

Main Idea:

Genuine branches, bear genuine fruit, leading to genuine joy in the genuine church

Implication:

up to this point the noun for joy has been used only once in this gospel - John 3:29 about the bridegroom - after this point joy becomes a big focus and it relates to the true meaning of the sacrifice looming large in front of them -

obedience, sacrificial love, fruit bearing, being pruned all seem to be rather painful and demanding words that scarcely suggest desirability but that is because they are not the chief end - Joy is.

- His followers knew this - 1 John 1:1-4

- the implication is that our joy is tied up with Christ and one another in the genuine church

Application:

genuine branches, bear genuine fruit, leading to genuine joy in the genuine church

(which is a body, a building, a bride)

Abiding in Christ surely means more than church involvement but it doesn't mean less.

articles for further study and enhanced discussion:

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/classics/murray-mystery-true-vine/love-one-another.html>

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-does-it-mean-abide-christ/>

<http://derekzrismawy.com/2013/01/03/is-christianity-individualistic-or-collectivist-yes-c-s-lewis-and-j-gresham-machen/>