

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## John 15:1-6

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide 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. 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. 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.

Col 1:20

## Study Guide 13 November 2011 – A Fruitful Life



### Summary

The sermon is about abiding in Jesus, being rooted in the vine, and being fruitful for Him.

Fruitfulness is living as images of God, representing His kingdom to the world around us. That means that we are not to be cloistered, but we are to constantly be plugged into the world and interacting with it. The fruit God is looking for is produced naturally by the nature of the vine – it cannot be forced or coaxed.

Jesus is that perfect vine. We cannot bear good fruit by ourselves, but we must be cut off from our old fruitless vine and be grafted onto Christ the true vine.

To abide in Jesus, we should find our sustenance and life in Him – praying, reading the bible, serving and spending time with the family of God.

### Key points

Christ is our life! We can have to real life without Him, and can bear no fruit apart from a life immersed in Him.

### Questions

- >>How does the image of the true vine help us understand our relationship with Jesus?
- >>What is the fruit God is looking for?
- >>Am I grafted onto Jesus? How can I be grafted onto Jesus?
- >>How should my life better reflect the fact that I have been grafted onto Jesus?

### Final thoughts

We need to be part of Christ – grafted on to Him, receiving our life from Him, dead to our old vine – so that we will bear good fruit that pleases God.