

CONCLUSION: The next move is up to you. Which Basket represents your life right now?

Remember:

- God is glorified when we bear “much fruit.”
- We must never be satisfied with mediocre fruit bearing.
- It is only as we “abide” in Christ, the True Vine that we are empowered to bear “much fruit.”

ISSUE	DISCIPLINE	PRUNING
How do you know it's happening?	PAIN	PAIN
Why is it happening?	You're doing something wrong	You're doing something right
What is your level of fruitfulness?	Little or no fruit (Basket #1)	Fruit (Basket #2)
What is the Vinedresser's desire?	Fruit (Basket #2)	More Fruit (Basket #3)
What needs to go?	SIN	SELF
How should I feel?	Guilty, Sad	Relief, Trust
What is the right response?	Repentance (turn from your sin, draw near to God)	Release (give God your permission)
When does it stop?	When you Repent	When God is Finished

Spring Valley Baptist Church

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John 15:1-11



“What's In Your Basket?”

John 15:5 (NKJV)

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

"What's In Your Basket" John 15:1-11

INTRODUCTION: If the Vinedresser were to inspect the branch of your Christian life, how much fruit would He find? On the night before Jesus died, He felt the need to give His disciples one last lesson about His will for them. Like many believers today, they didn't really understand what it was about. He knew He couldn't leave them confused, so He gave them a memorable picture of exactly what He expected from their lives. What was true for them is equally true for us today. God's will for us is that we produce "fruit." This morning, we will discuss four areas where God is working to help us bear "fruit," "more fruit," and "much fruit."

FIRST: _____ Is what God wants from the branch of our lives. (v.2)

Each of us is a branch that bears a clearly defined level of fruit:

* Basket #1 - _____ fruit * #Basket 2 - _____

*Basket #3 - _____ fruit * Basket #4 - _____ fruit.

? What qualifies as fruit: It's ok to think of bringing others to Christ as 'fruit,' but in this context we must understand that branches don't bear branches, they bear fruit. Fruit represents:

- _____ . A thought, attitude, or action that _____ God. (Jn. 15:8)
- We bear _____ fruit (Gal. 5:22)
- We bear _____ fruit (2 Cor. 9:8)

SECOND: _____ and _____ . The best Good News you don't want to hear (v.2) **"Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away."**

? "Takes away" airo, ah'ee-ro; a primary verb; to *lift*; by implication to *take up* or *away*; figurative to *raise, keep in suspense, carry, lift up*. (Heb. 12:5-6) What can we learn from these verses?

- _____ is the _____ of the discipline
- He disciplines _____ believers
- He always _____ out of _____

THIRD: _____ is how God makes room for more of the best v.2 **"... and every branch that bears fruit, he prunes it, that it may bring forth more fruit."**

- He asks us to let go of everything that keeps us from His _____ purposes.
- It's about re-ordering our _____.

NOTE: Pruning is not the same as "Discipline."

If Discipline is about "sin," Pruning is about _____. How can we know the difference? **Take the Priority Inventory. Score yourself as follows: (1) Strongly disagree (2) Slightly disagree (3) Unsure (4) Agree (5) Strongly agree.**

___ I spend a lot of time and energy on activities that further God's Kingdom

___ I look for opportunities to use my gifts and talents in ways that will bring glory to God

___ I am willing to undergo real change in order to shape my priorities to better match God's.

___ I can say with confidence that I put God before any person or possession

___ I understand that busyness for God and acclaim from other believers aren't the same as spiritual productivity

FOURTH: _____ is how God invites us to flourish in His Presence. (vv.4,5)

Abide: meno, men'-o; a primary verb; to *stay* (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): - *abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry*.

- Abiding happens at the place where the branch _____ to the Vine.
- The greater the connection to Jesus, the more we tap into His _____ and _____ and the more _____ we can bear for Him.

Three ways or places we abide (Jn. 15)

1. We abide in _____ v.5 Jesus is talking about the level of intimacy with Him. He's not talking about remaining "with" Him, or "near" Him, but "in" Him, and He in us!
2. We abide in _____ vv.9-17 This is possible only as we keep His _____ v.10
3. We abide in His _____ v.7

Note: It is only as we abide in Him that we are able to produce "much fruit."

Abiding is an _____, not a suggestion for the believer.

- **GOD** initiates "fruitfulness," "discipline," and "pruning," but **WE** initiate "ABIDING"