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Manifesting God's Love

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **March 19, 2017**

John 15:1-17

Introduction: "Grapes are the largest fruit crop on **earth!** It accounts for **one third** of the total fruit production in the world. And the **grapevine** prefers the **temperate** [MILD] climate in which it evolved, with **warm**, dry summers and **mild winters**. Winters of **sustained COLD KILL grapevines**. High humidity promotes vine disease. Tropical temperatures disrupt the normal vine cycle of **winter dormancy**. They are successfully grown in Europe, the Balkans, Asia, Mediterranean and South Africa, South Australia and New Zealand, most of North America and a good portion of South America."
(Source: <http://www.winepros.org/wine101/viniculture.htm>)

Thought 1. Notice, it's in "MILD climates" that the vine flourishes; producing fruit.

Acts 9:31, Then had the churches REST throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were **edified (confirm [strengthen].)**; and walking in the **fear** of the Lord, and **IN** the **COMFORT** of the Holy Ghost, **were MULTIPLIED**.

Thought 2. This parable is about viticulture (the SCIENCE [the study] of grape production. And we know, for Jesus to use it, the disciples understood the physical principles [LAWS] that govern this work. So, he uses their UNDERSTANDING of producing physical fruit to teach them God's spiritual LAWS that govern the production of spiritual FRUIT.

John 15:1, I am the **true [REAL] vine**, and my **Father** is the **husbandman (farmer)**.

NOTE: I am the true vine ... The stress of "TRUE" focuses attention on Jer. 2:21, in which passage the degeneracy of Israel was in view. Christ meant by this that he himself is the **TRUE Israel of God**, the **seed of Abraham** through whom all the prophecies were to be fulfilled. The DEGENERATE Israel's HATRED of him which was reaching its climax at that very time was a most impelling reason why Christ should have stressed his status as **God's TRUE vine**. The mention of "husbandman" in this context is most significant. The husbandman: God, will REJECT and DESTROY the **degenerate vine**, and the **spiritual seed** will be continued in the **true vine**, that is, "IN Christ." (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/john-15.html>)

Jeremiah 2:21, Yet I had planted thee a **noble vine**, wholly a **right SEED**: HOW then art thou turned into the **DEGENERATE** plant of a strange vine unto me?

John 15:2, Every **branch (a shoot)** **IN** me that **beareth NOT fruit** he TAKETH AWAY...

Taketh away (both words) defined 142; to take UP OR AWAY; REMOVE.

Thought 1. Some in the Body of Christ believe that the person “he taketh away” was NEVER IN Christ to begin with. But, if the “branch” was NEVER a part of the vine, HOW could he take it AWAY: REMOVE it?

And still others choose to believe that he “takes it UP.” The problem is neither of these beliefs is “PLAIN REASONING.” Therefore, NO scriptures support these beliefs. On the other hand, other scriptures clearly CONTRADICT these beliefs.

What is meant is IF a “believer” IN Christ brings forth NO fruit, due to yielding to SIN, in time, AFTER long patience with the branch, the “farmer”: God, WILL then take away: remove: CUT OFF the unfruitful branch. Romans 11, and other scriptures express this same truth, without contradiction from other scriptures!

Romans 11:19-20, Thou wilt say then, The branches were BROKEN OFF, that I might be grafted IN. Well; because of **UNBELIEF** they **WERE broken OFF**, and **thou standest by FAITH.**

Faith defined 4102, persuasion, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, CONSTANCY (fixedness of mind; persevering resolution; steady) **in such profession.**

Romans 11:20-22, Be NOT highminded, but FEAR (reverence): For if (since) God spared NOT the natural branches, take heed lest he also **spare NOT thee.** Behold therefore the **goodness** and **SEVERITY** (harshness, strictness) of God: on them which fell, SEVERITY; but toward thee, goodness, **IF** thou **CONTINUE IN** his goodness: otherwise **thou ALSO** shalt be **CUT OFF.**

Thought 2. So, “Once saved, always saved” is NOT true!

Revelation 3:5, He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; And I will **NOT blot out (ERASE) his NAME OUT of the book of life**, but I will confess his NAME before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was NOT found written IN the book of LIFE was cast INTO the **lake of fire.**

Revelation 3:14-16... unto the **angel (pastor)** of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art **neither COLD** nor **HOT**: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art **LUKEWARM**, and neither cold nor hot, **I will (be ABOUT to do something) spue (vomit) thee out of my mouth.**

Thought 3. We see, from the definition, it’s not conclusive yet that this will happen. So, Jesus is really WARNING them about how CLOSE they are.

John 15:2 ...and every **branch** that **BEARETH fruit**, he **PURGETH** it, that it may bring forth **MORE fruit.**

Purgeth defined 2508, to cleanse, i.e. (spec.) to PRUNE (clear of **USELESS** material).

NOTE: Pruning is an ART of delicate balance; too much will cause small, uneconomical crops; too little will cause over-cropping and **low-quality** fruit. **Pruning** also facilitates cultivation, **disease control** and harvesting, when the vines are trained to a grow in a particular shape. It is a **SKILL** that requires **experience** and **judgment** and CANNOT be done by machine. (Source: <http://www.winepros.org/wine101/viniculture.htm>)

Thought 1. God’s word is sharp and his pruning hook! See vs 3 and Heb. 4:12

John 15:3-4, Now ye are **clean** through **the WORD** which I have spoken unto you. **Abide (STAY)** IN me, and I **in you**. As the branch cannot bear **fruit** of itself, except it **abide** in the vine; no more can ye, **except YE abide (STAY)** IN me.

Thought 1. Jesus gives them a simple truth about fruit production. It's the SAP: LIFE in the vine that courses from the root through the trunk to the branch that produces the fruit. So, it is with Jesus: the SPIRITUAL VINE. It's the LIFE of Jesus found IN his **WORD** that produces fruit IN **our** spirit, NOT the Holy Spirit, IF as the Holy Spirit gives us understanding, we'll receive it and **KEEP** it.

This proves that trials and tribulations do NOT make us strong, nor produce fruit; nor is that their purpose! As a matter of fact they come to steal, kill and destroy! You do remember that extreme temperatures **hinder** or **KILL** the plants?

Galatians 5:22-23, But the **fruit** of the **Spirit** is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance**: against such there is no law.

Thought 2. The translators capitalized the word "Spirit" thinking this was speaking of the Holy Spirit. In the Greek, from which the translators wrote these words, there is only one word for "SPIRIT". And it refers to Yahweh, Jesus, angels, Satan, demons or humans. But from scripture, we know Yahweh is the farmer, Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches that bear the spiritual fruit.

Romans 1:22, But now being made **FREE** from sin, and become servants to God, **YE** have **your FRUIT** unto **holiness**, and the end **everlasting life**.

Thought 3. Next, for Jesus to encourage them, to **STAY** IN him is to say they, and we can **LEAVE**: depart from him. That's called **believing "for a while"**, which is apostasy [renunciation of faith]. This also let's us know we are NOT being forced to stay with him.

Luke 8:13, They on the **rock** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the **word** with joy; and these have **no root**, which **for a WHILE believe**, and in time of **TEMPTATION FALL AWAY**.

Temptation defined 3986, experience of evil.

Fall Away defined 868, to remove, DESERT, DEPART, withdraw self.

Desert, to **WITHDRAW** from or leave permanently.

1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the **latter times** **SOME** shall **DEPART** from the **FAITH**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of **devils**...

John 15:5-6, I am the **vine**, **YE** are the **branches**: He that **abideth (stay, continue)** IN me, and I **IN him**, the same bringeth forth **MUCH fruit**: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man **abide (stay) NOT** IN me, he is **CAST forth** as a **branch**, and is **withered**; and men gather them, and **cast** them into the **fire**, and they are **BURNED**.

Thought 1. The ones who stayed not are those who rejected Jesus **after** they believed. So, because of **UNBELIEF**, they are **CAST** into the lake of **FIRE**: eternal punishment.

Hebrews 6:4-8, For it is **impossible** for those who were **ONCE** enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall **FALL AWAY**, to **renew** them **again** unto **repentance**; seeing they **crucify** to **themselves** the Son of God **afresh**, and put him to an **open shame**.

Fall away defined 3895, to fall aside, to APOSTATIZE [to commit apostasy].

Apostasy, an **abandonment of faith** one has **VOLUNTARILY** confessed

Thought 2. Remember, the reason Jesus was CRUCIFIED on the cross is because of those that rejected him and refused to trust in him. And people that refuse to CONTINUE to trust him crucify him to themselves, afresh!

...But that which beareth thorns and briars is **rejected**, and is nigh unto cursing; whose **END** is to **be BURNED**.

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was **not** found written in the **book of life** was cast into the **lake of FIRE**.

John 15:7-8, If ye **abide (STAY)** IN me, and **MY words abide (STAY)** IN you, ye shall ASK what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father **glorified**, that ye **bear MUCH fruit**; so shall ye be **my disciples**.

Thought 1. Here, he gives the secret to bearing much fruit! Remember, the fruit is NOT souls saved. The souls are the BUDS (young branches) that come from the branches.

Luke 8:5-8, A sower went out to **sow his seed**: and as he sowed, some fell... ...And other fell on **good ground**... sprang up, and **bare FRUIT** an **hundredfold**. Now the parable is this: The **seed** is the **word** of God. But that on the **good ground** are they, which in an **HONEST** and **good** heart, having heard the WORD, KEEP it, and bring forth fruit with **patience**.

Honest defined 2570, fair, honest (upright; just; fair in dealing with others; free from trickishness and fraud; acting and having the disposition [frame of mind] to act at ALL TIMES according to justice or correct MORAL principles).

John 15:9-10, As the Father hath **loved** me, so have I loved you: **continue** ye in my **LOVE**. If ye **keep** my **commandments**, ye **shall abide (STAY)** IN my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and **abide (STAY)** IN his love.

Thought 1. It's one thing for God and Jesus to LOVE us, even the WORLD! (John 3:14-18) It's another thing to OBEY them and BE IN their love.

1 John 3:23, And this is **his commandment**, That we should **BELIEVE** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE one another**, as (like) he gave us **commandment**.

John 13:34, A **new commandment** I give unto you, that ye **LOVE one another**; AS (like) I have LOVED you, that ye also LOVE one another.

John 15:11, These things have I spoken unto you, that **my JOY** might **remain** in you, and that **your joy** might **be FULL**.

Thought 1. As you know, love and joy are fruit of our spirits produced by HIS WORD!

John 15:12, This is **my commandment**, That ye **LOVE one another**, AS (LIKE) I have **LOVED you**.

NOTE: This is identical with John 13:34, which see. Although not so designated here, it is the "new commandment."

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/john-15.html>)

John 15:13, Greater **LOVE** hath **NO MAN** than this, that a man **lay down his life** for **his FRIENDS**.

NOTE: It is a **love** that will lay down its life for others; it is a **love** that treats servants as friends. (<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/john-15.html>)

John 15:14, *Ye are **my FRIENDS**, IF ye DO whatsoever I command you.*

NOTE: First, Those only will be accounted Christ's FAITHFUL FRIENDS that approve themselves his obedient servants for those that will NOT have him to reign over them shall be treated as **his enemies**. --**Friendship** involves a fellowship of **aversions** (opposition of mind; dislike; hatred) and **attachments**.--Sallust.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/john-15.html>)

John 15:15, *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 (from) **my Father** I have **made KNOWN** unto you.*

NOTE: i. "The friend is a confidant who shares the knowledge of his superior's purpose and voluntarily adopts it as his own." (Tenney)
ii. The difference between a servant and a friend is NOT between diligent obedience and disobedience (or even casual obedience). The difference is between **understanding** and **NOT understanding**. Because friends have a close relationship, they understand while servants do NOT.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/john-15.html>)

John 15:16, *Ye have NOT **chosen me**, but I have **chosen you**, and **ordained (appoint)** 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 (**authority**), he may **GIVE it you**.*

NOTE: The supernatural nature of the call of the apostles to their God-appointed task is in view here. Their commission to teach all nations did NOT derive from some voluntary assumption of such an office on their part. But was imposed upon them from above by **Christ's choice of them** for that work.

But I chose you ... Concerning this, Westcott said:

Here (and in John 6:70 and John 13:18) the eleven are regarded as representatives of the Lord in relation to HIS CHURCH, favoring the interpretation (that this is reference to a call of the **apostleship**). The power of the office of the apostles lay for them in the fact that it was NOT self chosen.[7]

This passage strongly suggests the great commission (Matt. 28:18-20) in the mention of Jesus' being perpetually with them to provide whatever might be asked of the Father.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/john-15.html>)

John 15:17, *These things I command you, that **ye LOVE one another**.*

NOTE: This oft-repeated commandment is here **reinforced** by the fact of their being co-holders of the **sacred commission** to all nations. Each of them had been empowered by God's specific act of choosing them to their sacred task; and, in such a dignity, they were even further entitled and admonished to LOVE EACH OTHER.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/john-15.html>)

John 15:18, *If **the world HATE you**, ye know that it **hated me BEFORE** it **hated you**.*

NOTE: The friendship of the world they were NOT to expect, but they were NOT to be deterred from their work by its hatred. They had seen **the example of Jesus**. No opposition of the proud, the wealthy, the learned, or the men of power, no **persecution** or **gibes** (expression of sarcastic scorn), **had deterred him** from his work. **Remembering this**, and having **his example** steadily IN the EYE, they were to labor NOT LESS because wicked men should oppose and deride them. It is enough for the disciple to be as his Master, and the servant as his Lord, Matt. 10:25.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/john-15.html>)