



Then & Now, I AM

The True Vine

By Pastor Chris Roberds, 30 December 2012

Because Jesus is the vine I have a purpose in my life.

1. Jesus defines who He is. John 15:1-4 (NCV)

- "I am the true vine."

Jesus is the way to God.

- Jesus is the connection from us to the Father - that is His purpose.
- As followers, Jesus presents us to the Father already clean.

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plan.

- Jesus' purpose in our lives is to "be" the fulfillment of the Father's purpose.
- Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. John 15:4 (MSG)
- He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

2. Jesus defines who we are. John 15:5 (NIV)

- Jesus defines us as the branches - that is our purpose.
- We must remain in Him to bear fruit. Without the connection to the vine, there is no way that we can complete our purpose.

We are only fully alive when we are connected to God.

- We are disciples when we bear much fruit, when our lives are changed, and when we remain in the love of Christ. Our purpose is to live in Christ.

3. How do we live in Christ? John 15:9-11 (NASB)

- Depend on Christ to radically transform our lives and take care of our needs.

We keep His command: Love John 15:12-13 (NASB)

- Pruning means to cut away, even living parts of wood, so that there can be more fruit.

We allow God to cut the other stuff away.

- People know how much you love them by the kind of time you are willing to give them. We all have the same amount of time each day...we just choose to use it differently.

It's in this relationship that we find our purpose for life. John 15:14-17 (NIV)

- Jesus has brought you into this friendship for a purpose - to bear fruit - to bring others to Him. This is a purpose that is directly lived out by following His command - LOVE each other.