

JESUS SAID:

“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 bears fruit,
He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean
because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself
unless it abides in the vine,
so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches;
he who abides in Me and I in him,
he bears much fruit,
for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me,
he is thrown away as a branch and dries up;
and they gather them,
and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

7 If you abide in Me,
and My words abide in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 My Father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

9 Just as the Father has loved Me,
I have also loved you; abide in My love.

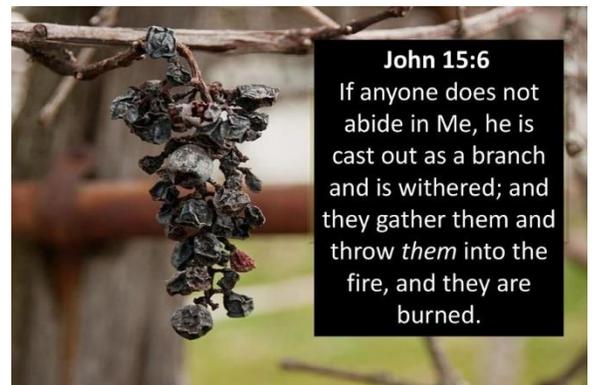
10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;
just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

11 These things I have spoken to you
so that My joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be made full.

John 15:1-11 nasb-1995

Did Jesus mean that, or was this just pleasant prose spoken on a grassy hillside? Would He say the same thing if he stood in the pulpit in the church you attend, or don’t you need it? And what if He did?

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John 15:6

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.