

I AM: The True Vine
Pastor Darius Dunson
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John 15:1-5 NIV

***"I AM THE TRUE VINE**, and my Father is the gardener. **He cuts off** every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit **he prunes** so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. **No branch can bear fruit by itself**; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.**"*

God is our source.

John 15:1-2 NIV

***"I AM THE TRUE VINE**, and my Father is the gardener. **He cuts off** every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit **he prunes** so that it will be even more fruitful."*

He Is:

1. The source of our correction

God's Pruning Involves:

1. Divine Discipline

John 15:2 NIV

***"HE CUTS OFF** every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit **HE PRUNES** so that it will be even more fruitful."*

Hebrews 12:5-8 NIV

*And have you forgotten the **encouraging words God spoke to you as his children**? He said, **"My child, don't make light of the***

LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." As you endure this **DIVINE DISCIPLINE**, remember that God is **treating you as his own children**. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.

Job 13:15, 20-21 NKJV

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him... "Only **two things do not do to me**, then I will not hide myself from You: **withdraw Your hand far from me, and let not the dread of You make me afraid.**"

God's Pruning Involves:

2. Divine Direction
3. Divine Disruptions

Genesis 41:55-57 NIV

When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "**Go to Joseph and do what he tells you.**" When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. **And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.**

He Is:

2. The source of our provision

John 15:4 NIV

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. **No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**"

What does remaining in Him look like?

- Prayer
- Profession of God's Word
- Proximity to God's people

He Is:

3. The source of our protection

Song of Solomon 2:15

The small foxes spoil the vine.

... though foxes are carnivorous animals in the main, they also devour plants, so that **besides digging their holes in the vineyards, and making tracks among the vines and gaps in the fences, they actually bite the young shoots of the vines and eat the grapes.** (Cp. Theocritus, Id. v. 112, where vines are said to be spoiled by their deadly bite.) In vine-growing countries, as for instance in Australia, **foxes when killed have been found with nothing in their stomachs but grapes.**

Declaration of Proverbs 3:5-12

I will trust in the Lord with all of my heart and lean not to my own understanding. In all my ways I will acknowledge Him, and He shall **direct my paths.** I will not be wise in my own eyes; I will fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to my flesh and strength to my bones. I will honor the Lord with my possessions and with the firstfruits of all my increase. So my barns will be filled with plenty, and my vats will overflow with new wine. I will not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor will I detest His correction. For I know the Lord corrects me because He loves me, just as a father loves his son.