

## True Branches of the Living Vine

### A Compilation

*John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide 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 in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide 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. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."*

#### An Introductory Thought

I was sitting in my chair just before starting on a long journey, and I lost myself, and I will tell you what was presented to me. **"I am the true vine. ..."** Whatever your disposition, whatever your temperament, unless you are molded and fashioned after Christ's likeness you will never meet Him in peace. **"I am the vine," was presented in such clearness.** {Ms73-1910.10} ... Get your eye fastened upon the Lamb of Calvary who for our sakes gave His own life that we might be saved. **He is a true Branch, and as I sat in my chair and this was presented to me, I thought I never saw anything so beautiful in my life. I lost all consciousness of everything around me. Strive to be a true branch of the living vine.** ... We have a Christ to look to. We have One that will uphold and sustain us at every step. Well, then, let us not give up to any discouragements. {Ms73-1910.22}

- 1 John 1:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."
- 2
- 3 "I am the True Vine." (vs. 1)
- 4 "I am the true Vine," He says. **Instead of choosing the graceful palm, the**
- 5 **lofty cedar, or the strong oak, Jesus takes the vine with its clinging**
- 6 **tendrils to represent Himself.** The palm tree, the cedar, and the oak stand
- 7 alone. They require no support. But the vine entwines about the trellis, and
- 8 thus climbs heavenward. So **Christ in His humanity was dependent upon**
- 9 **divine power. "I can of Mine own self do nothing,"** He declared. John
- 10 5:30. {DA 674.3}

11 "I am the true Vine." The Jews had always regarded the vine as the most noble  
12 of plants, and a type of all that was powerful, excellent, and fruitful. **Israel**  
13 **had been represented as a vine which God had planted in the Promised**  
14 **Land** [Isa. 5:7]. The Jews based their hope of salvation on the fact of their  
15 connection with Israel. But Jesus says, I am the real Vine. Think not that  
16 through a connection with Israel you may become partakers of the life of God,  
17 and inheritors of His promise. Through Me alone is spiritual life  
18 received. {DA 675.1}

19

20 "My Father is the husbandman." (vs. 1)

21 The Divine Husbandman **planted a goodly vine** upon the hills of Palestine.  
22 But **the men of Israel despised this root of heavenly origin**. In a rage they  
23 cast it over their vineyard wall; they bruised it, and trampled it under their  
24 indignant feet, and hoped that they had destroyed it  
25 forever. The Husbandman removed the broken vine, and concealed it from  
26 their sight. **Again he planted it, but in such a manner that the stock was no**  
27 **longer visible. The branches hung over the wall, and grafts might be**  
28 **joined to it, but the stem itself was placed beyond the power of men to**  
29 **reach or harm**. {RH September 11, 1883, par. 3}

30 "The garden of Eden was not only Adam's dwelling, but his school-room. As  
31 in that school, so in the school of the earth, two trees are planted, the tree of  
32 life, which bears the fruit of true education, and the tree of knowledge,  
33 yielding the fruit of 'science falsely so-called.' **All that have connection with**  
34 **Christ have access to the tree of life, a source of knowledge of which the**  
35 **world is ignorant**. After sin entered this world, the **heavenly**  
36 **husbandman transplanted the tree of life to the paradise above, but its**  
37 **branches hang over the wall to the lower world**. {PH140 7.3}

38

39

40 John 15:2 "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and  
41 every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more  
42 fruit."

43

44 "Every branch in me..." (vs. 2)

45 Now here is our work. "Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh  
46 away." What does it mean? It means that you should work out His teachings  
47 in truth and righteousness to the world. **It is not enough to have your name**  
48 **on the church book**. It is enough to go down into the water and be baptized,  
49 to come up out of the water with a solemn pledge that you are dead to the  
50 world. {Ms130-1909.15} "Every branch that beareth not fruit should be taken  
51 away." Do you want to be taken away? What part do you bear? **What**  
52 **evidence have you that you belong to Jesus Christ? What evidence do you**  
53 **bear to the world around you?** What sacrifice did you make to save the  
54 shillings and the dollars? It will all be counted just as it is. I want everyone to  
55 understand it. Christ will make no mistake in this matter. The heavenly angels,

56 Christ, and the Father are perfectly united. They that will not create a second  
57 rebellion in heaven will be there. {Ms130-1909.16}

58 The fruit borne in the life is the only sign to the world, to angels, and to men  
59 as to whether the human agent has a vital connection with Christ or not. **It is**  
60 **sure evidence that we are branches of the living vine if we manifest in life**  
61 **and character the attributes of Christ.** {Lt34-1894.15}

62 When **we not only talk, but live our religion, we shall show that we are**  
63 **branches of the living Vine.** {Ms97-1909.12}

64 What we need is the presence of Jesus Christ. We want His truth shining in  
65 our hearts, pervading all our life actions. This will determine whether or  
66 not we are branches of the true vine. {Ms37-1908.7}

67 By the character of the fruit of the daily life, **by the self-denial and self-**  
68 **sacrifice for the good of others, it is made evident that we are branches of**  
69 the true vine, conforming our lives unto the divine pattern. {Lt34-1894.17}

70 Meekness is a fruit of the Spirit, and an evidence that we are branches of the  
71 living God. **The abiding presence of meekness is an unmistakable evidence**  
72 **that we are branches of the True Vine, and are bearing much fruit.** It is  
73 an evidence that we are by faith beholding the King in his beauty and  
74 becoming changed into his likeness. Where meekness exists, the natural  
75 tendencies are under the control of the Holy Spirit. Meekness is not a species  
76 of cowardice. It is the spirit which Christ manifested when suffering injury,  
77 when enduring insult and abuse. To be meek is not to surrender our rights; but  
78 it is the preservation of self-control under provocation to give way to anger or  
79 to the spirit of retaliation. Meekness will not allow passion to take the  
80 lines. {ST August 22, 1895, par. 3}

81

82 “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away” (vs. 2)

83 Every **branch of the vine, subjected to the pruning of the wise**  
84 **Husbandman, will bring forth clusters of precious fruit.** “The fruit of the  
85 Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
86 meekness, temperance.” The branch can maintain its connection with the  
87 living vine only on condition that it bear fruit. Said Christ, “If ye keep  
88 my commandments, ye shall abide in my love.” And to each disciple is  
89 addressed the solemn warning, **“Every branch in me [every one who claims**  
90 **connection with me] that beareth not fruit, he taketh away.” Such a one is**  
91 **after a time overcome by temptation, and at last wholly separated from**  
92 **Christ.** {RH September 20, 1881, par. 5}

93 Although we are in Christ Jesus by His covenant of promise, yet **if we stand**  
94 **in a position of perfect indifference, without acknowledging Him as**  
95 **our Saviour, we bear no fruit.** If by failing to be a partaker of His divine  
96 nature we bear no fruit, we are taken away. **Worldly influences take us away**  
97 **from Christ, and our portion is the same as that of the unfruitful**  
98 **branch.** {Ms85-1901.2}

99 We now have an opportunity to be fruit-bearing branches of the True Vine;  
100 but **if we are careless and indifferent, what will be our condition?—We**  
101 **shall be fruitless; we shall be taken away.** {1888 547.1}

103 “Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more  
104 fruit.” (vs. 2)

105 **The pruning will cause pain, but it is the Father who applies the knife.** He  
106 works with no wanton hand or indifferent heart. **There are branches trailing**  
107 **upon the ground; these must be cut loose from the earthly supports to**  
108 **which their tendrils are fastening.** They are to reach heavenward, and find  
109 their support in God. **The excessive foliage that draws away the life current**  
110 **from the fruit must be pruned off.** The overgrowth must be cut out, to give  
111 room for the healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness. **The husbandman**  
112 **prunes away the harmful growth, that the fruit may be richer and more**  
113 **abundant.** {DA 676.6}

114 The fruit borne on the Christian tree is "love, joy, peace, long-suffering,  
115 gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Rich clusters of this  
116 precious fruit will appear on every branch that is subjected to the pruning of  
117 the wise Husbandman. **The result of union with Christ is purification of**  
118 **heart, a circumspect life, and a faultless character.** Yet those who have  
119 attained to this degree of Christian perfection are the last to claim that they  
120 have any merits of their own. {ST, March 10, 1887 par. 10}

121 God is constantly pruning his people, cutting off profuse, spreading  
122 branches, that they may bear fruit to his glory, and not produce leaves  
123 only. **Idols must be given up, the conscience must become more tender,**  
124 **the meditations of the heart must be spiritual, and the entire character**  
125 **must become symmetrical.** {ST, March 10, 1887 par. 12}

126 **There is a constant tendency among the trees of the Lord to be more**  
127 **profuse in foliage than in fruit.** Just as the strength and nourishment of the  
128 grape-vine are taken up in abundant foliage, and the fruit is not brought to  
129 perfection unless the vine is pruned, so **the strength of the Christian will fail**  
130 **of its true end, unless the heavenly husbandman prunes away the useless**  
131 **growth.** In prosperity the followers of Jesus often turn their thoughts and  
132 energies toward gratifying themselves, to securing worldly treasure, to the  
133 enjoyment of ease and pleasure and luxury, and they bring forth little fruit to  
134 the glory of God; then **the heavenly husbandman, in order to promote the**  
135 **fruitfulness of the branches, comes with the pruning-knife of**  
136 **disappointment, loss, or bereavement, and cuts away the hindering**  
137 **growth.** {RH April 10, 1894, par. 7} ... Our sorrows do not spring out of the  
138 ground. In every affliction God has a purpose to work out for our good. **Every**  
139 **blow that destroys an idol, every providence that weakens our hold upon**  
140 **earth and fastens our affections more firmly upon God, is a blessing. ...**  
141 **We should receive with gratitude whatever will quicken the conscience,**  
142 **elevate the thoughts, and ennoble the life.** The fruitless branches are cut  
143 off and cast into the fire. Let us be thankful that through painful pruning, we  
144 may retain a connection with the living Vine; for if we suffer with Christ, we  
145 shall also reign with him. {RH April 10, 1894, par. 9}

146 In prosperity the followers of Jesus often turn their thoughts and energies to  
147 gratifying themselves, to securing earthly treasure, to enjoying the ease and  
148 pleasure and luxury of the world, while they bring forth little fruit to the glory  
149 of God. Then the Husbandman, **to promote the fruitfulness of the branches,**

150 comes with the pruning-knife of disappointment, loss, or bereavement,  
151 and cuts away the hindering growth. {RH September 11, 1883, par. 11}

152 If you have trials, do not think that you are cast away and are not children  
153 of God because you have trials. We are to give proof by bearing these trials  
154 and pressing close to Jesus Christ in prayer, in submission, in giving our  
155 will to the will of Christ, that His will shall be manifest in us. It means  
156 everything to us. {Ms77-1910.2}

157 In order that we may die to self, we are called upon to endure trial, and  
158 when the chastening hand of the Lord is laid upon us, we are not to fret  
159 and complain, not to rebel, not to worry ourselves out of the hand of  
160 Christ. We are to humble ourselves before God, pleading with him to give us  
161 rest and peace. We enter the furnace of affliction with our hearts darkened  
162 by selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth  
163 reflecting the divine image, as gold tried in the fire. “No chastening for the  
164 present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth  
165 the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised  
166 thereby.” {ST December 10, 1896, par. 9}

167  
168

169 John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto  
170 you.”

171

172 “Now ye are clean.” (vs. 3)

173 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.” That is,  
174 they are **clean in their understanding**. {Ms77-1910.5}

175 “Now ye are clean”—how?—“through (obedience to) the Word which I  
176 have spoken unto you.” [Verses 1-3.] {Lt362-1907.6}

177 To dwell and abide in Christ is to dwell and abide in His Word; it is to  
178 bring heart and character into conformity to His commands. In the  
179 parable of the vine and the branches, Jesus shows the vital connection that  
180 must exist between Himself and His followers. {SWk 52.1} The **branches**  
181 **represent the believers in Jesus Christ. Those who truly believe, will do**  
182 **the same works that He did. They are united to Christ by the faith that**  
183 **works by love and purifies the soul. As the branch is nourished by the sap**  
184 **which flows from the parent stock, so the believer in Christ is sustained**  
185 **by the life of Christ.** {SWk 52.2}

186 The word of Christ is the bread of life that is furnished for every soul that  
187 liveth. To refuse to eat this bread is death. He that neglects to partake of  
188 the word of God shall not see life. **Receiving the word is believing the word,**  
189 **and this is eating Christ’s flesh, drinking his blood. To dwell and abide in**  
190 **Christ, is to dwell and abide in his word;** it is to bring heart and character  
191 into conformity to his commands. {RH January 14, 1896, par. 3}

192 In order to maintain spiritual life and health, we must feed on Jesus  
193 Christ, which is studying his word, and doing those things that he has  
194 commanded in that word. This will constitute a close union with Christ. The  
195 branch that bears fruit must be in the vine, a part of it, receiving nourishment

196 from the parent stalk. This is living by faith upon the Son of God. {RH June  
197 22, 1897, par. 16}  
198  
199  
200 John 15:4 “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,  
201 except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”  
202  
203 “Abide in me.” (vs. 4)  
204 “I am the Vine, ye are the branches,” Christ said to His disciples. Though He  
205 was about to be removed from them, **their spiritual union with Him was to**  
206 **be unchanged.** The connection of the branch with the vine, He said,  
207 **represents the relation you are to sustain to Me.** The scion is engrafted  
208 **into the living vine, and fiber by fiber, vein by vein, it grows into the vine**  
209 **stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead**  
210 **in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ.** By  
211 faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The **sinner unites his**  
212 **weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his**  
213 **frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ.** The  
214 humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched  
215 divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker  
216 of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved. {DA 675.3}  
217 When the sinner has repented of his sins, and is united to Christ, as  
218 the branch is engrafted on the vine, a deep and earnest love pervades his being  
219 which death cannot quench. **The nature of the man is changed and he is a**  
220 **partaker of the divine nature. He loves the things which Christ loves, and**  
221 **hates that which He hates. His desires are in harmony with the will of**  
222 **God. He treasures up the words of Christ, and they abide in him. The life-**  
223 **giving principle of the Saviour is communicated to the Christian.** Just  
224 so the little rod, leafless, and apparently lifeless is engrafted into the living  
225 vine, and fiber by fiber, vein by vein, drinks life and strength from it till it  
226 becomes a flourishing branch of the parent stalk. {ST January 24, 1878, par.  
227 3} **The condition of this union is plainly specified: “If ye keep my**  
228 **commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s**  
229 **commandments, and abide in his love.”** The commandments of the Father are  
230 the commandments of the Son. **In this union with Christ, finite man,**  
231 **dependent and worthless, is exalted by a connection with the**  
232 **Infinite,** even as the engrafted branch draws nourishment from the vine which  
233 results in the production of fruit. The follower of Christ derives from him  
234 wisdom, strength and righteousness. **Without Christ he cannot be**  
235 **reconciled to God, whose law he has transgressed. Without Christ he is**  
236 **unable to subdue a single sin or overcome the smallest temptation.** The  
237 soul united to Christ as the branch to the vine is accepted of God through the  
238 merits of his Son, and becomes an object of the Father’s special care. {ST  
239 January 24, 1878, par. 4}  
240 “This **figure of the vine is a perfect symbol.** God sent his Son from the  
241 heavenly courts to a world seared and marred with the curse. In Christ was  
242 righteousness, peace, life—every blessing necessary for man’s happiness. {RH

243 September 20, 1881, par. 2} **In this vine is all spiritual life.** From Christ's  
244 fullness alone can we obtain nourishment unto eternal life. {RH September  
245 20, 1881, par. 3} **The scion becomes a part of the living vine by forming a**  
246 **perfect union with it. Thus it is with the sinner. By repentance and faith,**  
247 **he becomes connected with Jesus Christ, and lives in him.** This connection  
248 joins soul to soul,—the finite with the infinite. But, **contrary to nature, the**  
249 **branch which has been united with the true vine brings forth, not fruit of**  
250 **its own kind, but the fruit of the vine of which it has become a part.** The  
251 Spirit of Christ, flowing into the hearts of all who are indeed united with him,  
252 makes them partakers of the divine nature. **They become pure, even as he is**  
253 **pure.** {RH September 20, 1881, par. 4}

254 Have you wandered from your Saviour into paths of disobedience? The  
255 blessings He bestows are all upon condition that you "come to me."  
256 **These blessings cannot be enjoyed apart from Christ, but will be freely,**  
257 **gladly imparted and enjoyed when you shall come to Him in close**  
258 **fellowship.** With Christ your peace is assured. You are to come to Christ, to  
259 stay with Christ. . . . {Ms194-1898} **It is not a casual touch with Christ that is**  
260 **needed, but it is to abide with Him.** He called you to abide with Him.  
261 **He does not propose to you a short-lived blessedness that is realized**  
262 **occasionally through earnest seeking of the Lord and passes away as you**  
263 **engage in the common duties of life.** Your abiding with Christ makes every  
264 necessary duty light, for He bears the weight of every burden. He has prepared  
265 for you to abide with Him. This means that **you are to be conscious of an**  
266 **abiding Christ, that you are continually with Christ, where your mind is**  
267 **encouraged and strengthened because you have put on Christ;** then you  
268 can "quit you like men, be strong" 1 Corinthians 16:13. {Ms194-1898} Have  
269 you, have I, fully comprehended the gracious call, "Come unto me"? **He**  
270 **says, "Abide in me," not Abide with Me. "Do understand My call. Come**  
271 **to Me to stay with Me."** He will freely bestow all blessings connected with  
272 Himself upon all who come to Him for life. **He has something better for you**  
273 **than a short-lived blessedness that you feel when you seek the Lord in**  
274 **earnest prayer. That is but as a drop in the bucket, to have a word with**  
275 **Christ.** You are privileged with His abiding presence in the place of a short-  
276 lived privilege that was not lasting as you engaged in the duties of  
277 life. {Ms194-1898}

278 **To maintain a constant union with Christ is essential to Christian growth,**  
279 **and is the great hope of those who are seeking a preparation for his**  
280 **coming.**" {RH August 29, 1907, par. 6}

281

282 Seek His Presence

283 Let us turn aside from the dusty, heated thoroughfares of life to rest in the  
284 shadow of Christ's love, and learn from Him the lesson of quiet trust. **Not a**  
285 **pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to**  
286 **sit down in companionship with Him,—this is our need. Many, even in**  
287 **their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion**  
288 **with God. They are in too great haste.** With hurried steps they press through  
289 the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the  
290 sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain

291 with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work. { ST  
292 July 6, 1904, par. 6 } **These workers can never attain the highest success**  
293 **until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to**  
294 **think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and**  
295 **spiritual power.** They need the uplifting of His Spirit. Receiving this, they  
296 will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be  
297 refreshed, and the burdened heart will be lightened and encouraged. { ST July  
298 6, 1904, par. 7 }

299

300 “And I in you.” (vs. 4)

301 **Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of**  
302 **unreserved surrender to His service.** The channel of communication must  
303 be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly  
304 draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive  
305 from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character. {DA  
306 676.2}

307

308 Believe

309 Well, now, if you feel that you have not much faith, you just **take the Bible in**  
310 **your hands, and say, Lord, I am a weak, feeble mortal; but I come right**  
311 **to Thee with Thy Word. I present it to Thee, and I ask Thee to bring me**  
312 **in a sacred nearness with Thyself,** that I can speak forth understandingly and  
313 intelligently to those that I am trying to win to Thee. Now this is the prayer  
314 that you can make. {Ms86-1910} ... We want to put away our unbelief; we  
315 want to put away our pettish feelings. We want not to speak out because we  
316 feel disturbed in our minds. **We want to sensibly carry forward the idea**  
317 **that Christ is abiding in us,** if we will let Him come in and we are abiding in  
318 Him. {Ms86-1910}

319 “Abide in Me, and I in you.” {Ms145-1906.5} Wonderful privilege! Is this  
320 possible? Can we abide in Christ, and Christ abide in us? This is possible. We  
321 can, and our life will be filled with happiness.

322

323 Eating Christ’s flesh and abiding in Christ

324 **In the sixth chapter of John we find the same lesson given by another**  
325 **illustration: “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,**  
326 **Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no**  
327 **life in you.** {Ms67-1897.13} **These two chapters given by the great**  
328 **Teacher contain the very mystery of godliness.** No one need be left in  
329 darkness. It is the truth that is to be received, and its reception will be revealed  
330 in the life of every true believer. ... He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my  
331 blood, dwelleth in me and I in him. **As the living Father hath sent me, and I**  
332 **live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.”** [John  
333 6:57] **This is the same union that is represented by the graft of the parent**  
334 **vine stock.** When by faith the believer takes hold of Christ, there comes a  
335 turning point in his life. He absorbs the spirit and mind of Christ, and  
336 represents His character. {Ms67-1897.16}



337

338

339 John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in  
340 him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

341

342 "I am the vine." (vs. 5)

343 Christ was ever presenting before them the privileges bestowed upon [the]  
344 feeble, **finite sinful nature of man, and that only through union with**  
345 **Christ could it be restored to healthful growth. The life of the Vine was to**  
346 **become the life of the adopted sapling.** ... The same God who had given  
347 Jesus to our world is able to perfect them for whom so great a sacrifice has  
348 been made, that through His grace they may be complete in Him. "He that  
349 hath begun a good work in you, will perform it unto the day of Christ Jesus,"  
350 is His promise. The work of Christ is concerned in the perfection of all His  
351 chosen ones, for they are members of His body, a part of Himself. {Ms67-  
352 1897.31}

353

354 "Ye are the branches." (vs. 5)

355 **Can we conceive a closer, more intimate relation to Christ** than is set forth  
356 in the words, "I am the vine, ye are the branches"? The fibers of the branch are  
357 almost identical with those of the vine. **The communication of life, strength,**  
358 **and fruitfulness from the trunk to the branches is unobstructed and**  
359 **constant.** Thus the root sends its nourishment through the branch. Such is the  
360 true believer's relation to Christ. **He abides in Christ, and draws his**  
361 **nourishment from him.** {SW, December 17, 1907 par. 2} ... **Christ has**  
362 **made provision again to connect us with himself, and through this union**  
363 **we receive moral and spiritual life and power.** {SW, December 17, 1907  
364 par. 3}

365

366 Oneness with Christ: Unity but not uniformity

367 The **connection of the branches with one another and with the Vine**  
368 **constitutes them a unity, but this does not mean uniformity in**  
369 **everything. Unity in diversity is a principle that pervades the whole**  
370 **creation.** While there is an individuality and variety in nature, there is a  
371 oneness in their diversity; for all things receive their usefulness and beauty  
372 from the same source. {SW, December 17, 1907 par. 7}

373

374 How does this unity take place?

375 The **branches of the vine cannot blend into each other; they are**  
376 **individually separate; yet every branch must be in fellowship with every**  
377 **other if they are united in the same parent stock.** They all draw  
378 **nourishment from the same source; they drink in the same life-giving**  
379 **properties.** So each branch of the True Vine is separate and distinct, yet all  
380 are bound together in the parent stock. **There can be no division.** They are all  
381 linked together by his will to bear fruit wherever they can find place and

382 opportunity. {SW, December 17, 1907 par. 8} Christian unity consists in the  
383 branches being in the same parent stock, the vitalizing power of the center  
384 supporting the grafts that have united with the Vine. {SW, December 17, 1907  
385 par. 9}

386

387 “Bears much fruit.” (vs. 5)

388 The **constant belief in Christ as your personal Saviour will make you one**  
389 **with Him as the branch is one with the vine.** Every branch will evidence  
390 whether or not it has life, for where there is life, there is sure to be  
391 growth. **There is a continual communication of the lifegiving properties of**  
392 **the vine, and this is demonstrated by the fruit which the branches**  
393 **bear.** {Ms67-1897.50} ... **The branch grafted into the living Vine will**  
394 **testify whether it has, fiber by fiber and vein by vein, become one with the**  
395 **parent stock. The fibers of the one will be identically the same as that of**  
396 **the other.** There is a communication of the sap vessels with the current  
397 flowing through the Vine stock, and they will bear much fruit. {Ms67-1897.7}

398 The **life of the vine will be manifest in fragrant fruit on the branches.** "He  
399 that abideth in Me," said Jesus, "and I in him, the same bringeth forth much  
400 fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." **When we live by faith on the Son**  
401 **of God, the fruits of the Spirit will be seen in our lives; not one will be**  
402 **missing.** {DA 676.4}

403 He who is united to Christ is accepted in the Beloved. That soul is dear to the  
404 heart of God. The benefits of this union will be manifest. **The child of God,**  
405 **abiding in Christ, will have the character of Christ.** {ST February 8, 1892,  
406 Art. A, par. 1}

407

408 “Without me ye can do nothing.” (vs. 5)

409 In taking upon Himself humanity, Christ is connected by relationship to the  
410 whole human family; but to any church this relation is of no avail without a  
411 personal faith—the identification of heart and mind and soul and strength with  
412 Jesus Christ. In thoughts and desires, in words and actions, **there must be an**  
413 **identity with Christ, a constant imparting of His spiritual life. And it is in**  
414 **thus constantly receiving and constantly imparting that which we receive**  
415 **that makes us elements of light.** {Ms67-1897.32}

416 Christ has said, “Without me ye can do nothing.” **A great change must take**  
417 **place in us before we can live a true Christian life. We must become**  
418 **partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruptions which are in  
419 the world through lust. **We must be nourished by the life of the Living**  
420 **Vine, and then we shall become fruit-bearing branches.** Christ has said,  
421 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.” **The branch planted**  
422 **in Christ will bear the same order of fruit as he himself has borne. If we**  
423 **are in Christ, we shall love the things which he loved, hate the things**  
424 **which he hated, and be obedient unto all the commandments of God.** As  
425 the hart panteth after the water brooks, so will the soul pant after the things  
426 pertaining to the Spirit of God. And we shall make manifest to the world that  
427 we are the children of God by the fruits we bear. {ST June 1, 1891, par. 4}

428

429

430 John 15:6 “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is  
431 withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are  
432 burned.”

433

434 “If a man abide not in me, he is cast off.” (vs. 6)

435 **Many who claim to be followers of Christ are withered branches, that**  
436 **must ere long be separated from the living vine. The love of the world has**  
437 **paralyzed their spirituality, and they are not awake to the precious theme**  
438 **of redemption.** The impression made upon the world by these professed  
439 Christians is unfavorable to the religion of Christ. Such dull, careless ones  
440 manifest ambition and zeal in the business of the world, but they have little  
441 interest in things of eternal importance. **The voice of God through his**  
442 **messengers is a pleasant song; but its sacred warnings, reproofs,**  
443 **and encouragements are all unheeded.** Eternal interests are placed on a  
444 level with common things. The Holy Spirit is grieved, and its influence is  
445 withdrawn. {RH September 20, 1881, par. 7}

446 The graft that unites with the vine-stock and partakes of its life, becomes  
447 flourishing and fruitful; but what if it forms no such union? It is a withered  
448 branch; **though outwardly joined to the vine, it does not share its life; it**  
449 **cannot bring forth fruit.** {RH September 11, 1883, par. 17}

450

451

452 John 15:7 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye  
453 will, and it shall be done unto you.”

454

455 “If ye abide in me” (vs. 7)

456 “If ye abide in Me.” **The “if” is there.** “Ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall  
457 be done unto you.” **I think how oft we disappoint our Saviour, when if we**  
458 **recognized Him, when if we would come to Him in humility, we should**  
459 **see so many difficulties removed that loom up before us in our religious**  
460 **experience.** The fathers and the mothers want that living faith that will bear  
461 the test, and we cannot afford to be without it. {Ms86-1910}

462 I now beg of you, for Christ’s sake, to **humble yourselves before God. Do**  
463 **not try to humble someone else.** Let us humble ourselves before God. Every  
464 one is to deal with his individual self. When we are converted, we shall be  
465 able to strengthen our brethren. **We are not to find fault and complain, but**  
466 **we are to come to Jesus Christ and let Him convert the soul.** This prepares  
467 us to co-operate with God in the conversion of other souls. {Ms145-1906.58}

468 Many who profess to be His followers **have an anxious, troubled heart,**  
469 **because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a**  
470 **complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that**  
471 **such a surrender may involve.** Unless they do make this surrender, they can  
472 not find peace. { ST July 6, 1904, par. 4 } The abiding rest—the

473 consciousness that God is true—who has it? That **rest is found when all self-**  
474 **justification is put away, and an entire surrender is made to Christ, to be**  
475 **and do only what He wills.** Those who do not comply with these conditions  
476 can not find rest. { ST July 6, 1904, par. 5 } ... Nothing of the world can  
477 make sad those whom Jesus makes glad by His presence. In perfect  
478 acquiescence there is perfect peace. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,  
479 whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee.” [Isa. 26:3] **Our**  
480 **lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the keeping of the**  
481 **Master-worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that**  
482 **will be to His own glory.** { ST July 6, 1904, par. 9 }

483

484 “My words abide in you” (vs. 7)

485 "Herein is My Father glorified," said Jesus, "that ye bear much fruit." **God**  
486 **desires to manifest through you the holiness, the benevolence, the**  
487 **compassion, of His own character. Yet the Saviour does not bid the**  
488 **disciples labor to bear fruit. He tells them to abide in Him.** "If ye abide in  
489 Me," He says, "and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it  
490 shall be done unto you." **It is through the word that Christ abides in His**  
491 **followers.** This is the same vital union that is represented by eating His flesh  
492 and drinking His blood. **The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving**  
493 **them, you receive the life of the Vine.** You live "by every word that  
494 proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4. The life of Christ in you  
495 produces the same fruits as in Him. **Living in Christ, adhering to Christ,**  
496 **supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit**  
497 **after the similitude of Christ.** {DA 677.1}

498 **Man is appointed to eat and masticate the Word; but unless his heart is**  
499 **opened to the entrance of that Word, unless he drinks in the Word, unless**  
500 **he is taught of God, there will be misconception, misapplication, and**  
501 **misinterpretation of that Word.** The hearing of the Word of God is not  
502 enough. Unless taught of God, the truth will not be accepted to the saving of  
503 the soul. It must be brought into the life practice. The human agent will reveal  
504 whether or not he is taught of God. And if not, it is not because God is not  
505 willing to teach; but because man is not willing to receive his teaching, and  
506 eat of the Bread of life. {Ms67-1897.52}

507 **It is the duty of every child of God to store his mind with divine truth;**  
508 **and the more he does this, the more strength and clearness of mind he**  
509 **will have to fathom the deep things of God.** And his growth in grace will be  
510 more and more vigorous, as the principles of truth are carried out in his daily  
511 life. {ST, March 10, 1887 par. 13}

512 “If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and  
513 it shall be done unto you.” **“And My words abide in you.” This implies a**  
514 **careful study of the Word.** Brethren and sisters, study the Bible. **Put your**  
515 **novels into the fire.** Make a great bonfire of all the novels you have. Let them  
516 not come into the hands of your children. Let every novel be consumed. You  
517 have no time to read them, nor have your children. {Ms145-1906.37}

518 Resolve that you will be fruit-bearing members of the living Vine. The scion  
519 can flourish only as it receives life and strength from the parent stock.

520 **Improve, then, every opportunity to connect yourselves more closely with**  
521 **Christ. It is by believing him, loving him, copying him, and depending**  
522 **wholly upon him, that you are to become one with him; and through you**  
523 **his life and character will be revealed to the world.** {RH September 11,  
524 1883, par. 18} It is by opening your heart to the words of Christ that you are  
525 to become a partaker of the divine nature. When you cast your helpless soul  
526 upon him, believing his word, “Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast  
527 out”, then the union is begun. Your faith may be feeble, but cling to the  
528 Saviour’s promise. In him is light and hope and life. **His words, received into**  
529 **the soul, will give vital power to work the works of Christ;** and every effort  
530 put forth in love will bind you more firmly to your source of strength. “Who is  
531 he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, who  
532 is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” {RH  
533 September 11, 1883, par. 19}

534

535 “Ye shall ask and it will be given you.” (vs. 7)

536 Precious are the privileges accorded him who abides in Christ. Said our  
537 Saviour, “**If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what**  
538 **ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**” **The mind of Christ dwells in his**  
539 **faithful followers; their desires are in accordance with his will; their**  
540 **petitions are indited by his Spirit. They obtain answers to their prayers;**  
541 **for they ask for such blessings as he delights to bestow.** {RH September 11,  
542 1883, par. 14} But **there are thousands of prayers daily offered that God**  
543 **does not answer. There are faithless prayers.** “He that cometh to God must  
544 believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”  
545 There are **selfish prayers**, proceeding from a heart that is cherishing idols. “If  
546 any man regard iniquity in his heart, the Lord will not hear him.” There are  
547 **petulant, fretful prayers**, murmuring because of the burdens and cares of  
548 life, instead of humbly seeking grace to lighten them. **Those who offer such**  
549 **petitions are not abiding in Christ. They have not submitted their will to**  
550 **the will of God.** They do not comply with the condition of the promise, and it  
551 is not fulfilled to them. {RH September 11, 1883, par. 15} **They that are**  
552 **abiding in Jesus have the assurance that God will hear them, because**  
553 **they love to do his will. They offer no formal, wordy prayer, but come to**  
554 **God in earnest, humble confidence, as a child to a tender father, and pour**  
555 **out the story of their grief and fears and sins, and in the name of Jesus**  
556 **present their wants;** they depart from his presence rejoicing in the assurance  
557 of pardoning love and sustaining grace. {RH September 11, 1883, par. 16}

558 **The Lord Jesus will abide with you and you with Him in every place.** You  
559 must not leave Christ in the outer court, neither keep yourself away from  
560 Christ in the outer court. **Will anxiety, perplexity, and cares drive you away**  
561 **from Christ? Are we less dependent upon God when in the workshop, in**  
562 **the field, in the marketplace?** Any man who runs greedily after gain and  
563 forgets to consecrate his all to God is a worshiper of earthly things. It is  
564 recorded in regard to the churches of Macedonia, “How that in a great trial of  
565 affliction, the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the  
566 riches of their liberality.... And this they did, not as we had hoped, but first  
567 gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God” 2

568 Corinthians 8:2, 5. {Ms194-1898} ... **While men cannot live upon their**  
569 **knees in the marketplace, yet the silent heart's earnest desire presented to**  
570 **heaven finds access to the Father through the watchers. The way to the**  
571 **throne of God is open, and all who have the fear of God before them and**  
572 **desire to walk in His counsel will seek His strength to do His will in**  
573 **crowded companies as well as in the chapel.** It is in these very places that  
574 the men in large responsibilities may hear the voice of Christ saying in His  
575 Word, "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open **door**, and no  
576 man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast  
577 not denied my name" Revelation 3:8. There is a chance for every man who  
578 loves and fears God, with every temptation that shall come in the business  
579 transactions of life, **to know how to retreat into the secret place of the Most**  
580 **High's pavilion, so that he can remain there and be safe. Then he will**  
581 **honor God because he feels the strength and fullness of power of Him**  
582 **who is back of the promises. He communes with God where no eye saw**  
583 **and no ear heard but His.** {Ms194-1898} All the Lord requires is a willing  
584 mind to walk in the way of the Lord. If there be a pure heart he shall see God  
585 and will feel His keeping power even in the busiest, most excitable crowd, if  
586 duty requires him to be there. If he sets the Lord ever before him he has an  
587 abiding Christ, and he will have crosses to lift because he claims to be a  
588 Christian. In such places every true, genuine receiver of Christ, believing Him  
589 to be his personal Saviour, carries the lamp of life. {Ms194-1898}

590 If we will to do the will of God, we shall know His doctrine. We shall not be  
591 in perplexity. **When I consider in the night season what a happy privilege**  
592 **is set before those who believe in Christ Jesus; when I consider how they**  
593 **can present to Him the promise, "Ask what ye will, and it shall be done**  
594 **unto you;" when I realize that if we abide in Him, we shall ask the proper**  
595 **thing, I am overwhelmed with the thought of the love of God.** Abiding in  
596 Him, we shall not ask for riches or for the pleasures of this world, but we shall  
597 ask to be Christlike, and our Redeemer will make us Christlike. {Ms145-  
598 1906.52} ... **It is not necessary for you to try to do something wonderful**  
599 **of yourself. You need only to believe in Christ. Believe that He will take**  
600 **you just as you are. Believe that His power will rest upon you. Believe**  
601 **that He gives you just what you ask for.** In believing thus, you will find that  
602 the grace of Jesus Christ will be upon you, and you will praise Him because of  
603 your infinite privileges. {Ms145-1906.53}

604 If there are hindrances in our way, and if we meet with difficulties, let us not  
605 give up in despair, but keep fast hold of the promises. – {PC 315.4}

606 "These things I have spoken unto you," - That you may be sad and  
607 discouraged, refusing to believe that you can live the Christian life? No.  
608 "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and  
609 that your joy might be full." – {PC 315.5} **Although you may be in trouble,**  
610 **you can go forward with confidence. Knowing that you have an abiding**  
611 **Christ. He tells those who are in trouble and perplexity to bring their**  
612 **burdens to him. He does not tell them to go to their neighbors and talk**  
613 **the matter over.** To those who are weary and heavy laden, he says, "Come  
614 unto me, and I will give you rest." "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;  
615 for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For  
616 my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." – {PC 315.6} Do not wear a yoke

617 of human manufacture; such yokes are heavy and galling. **When we learn**  
618 **Christ's meekness and lowliness, and lay our burdens upon him, rest will**  
619 **come to us. He is ever ready to help us.** The Lord is more willing to give the  
620 Holy Spirit to those that ask him than parents are to give good gifts unto their  
621 children. How full, how broad, this statement! {PC 316.1} **But often we take**  
622 **ourselves in our own hands, thinking that we can arrange matters in a**  
623 **way that will bring us peace and rest. Do we succeed? No. We get into**  
624 **more trouble than before.** When things arise to perplex our minds, we fret  
625 and worry, and begin to accuse others, and to find fault with them. {PC  
626 316.2} Do not talk of the faults of others. **Take care of your own garden.**  
627 **See that your own heart is cleansed by the power of God. When trouble**  
628 **comes, instead of getting out of patience instead of fretting and worrying,**  
629 **go to the Lord, and tell Him all about it.** Has He not said, "Ask, and it shall  
630 be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto  
631 you?" Go right to the Lord, and in humility of mind, tell him about your  
632 trouble. Do not go to human friends; for they have all the burdens they can  
633 bear. Go to the One who gave his life for you. You have been bought with a  
634 price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are his. Do  
635 not walk in self-sufficiency, thinking that you are capable of guiding yourself  
636 aright. "Learn of me," Christ says, "For I am meek and lowly in heart." – {PC  
637 316.3} ... **For a while, many years, ago, I was in despair. Then I cast**  
638 **myself on the mercy and love of the Saviour, and his power came upon**  
639 **me.** At one time those who were working over me thought me dead. But all at  
640 once I raised my voice in prayer. **The power of God was upon me all night**  
641 **long, and henceforth I understood that I must look to Christ, and not to**  
642 **any human being for relief.** I had been praying and praying for help, and all  
643 the time my Saviour was by my side, waiting for me to recognize him as my  
644 sufficiency, my strength, my grace. **I learned the lesson, and after that,**  
645 **when I kneeled down to pray, I believed that I would receive an answer,**  
646 **whether I felt as if I would or not.** Feeling is not to be our guide. Feeling is  
647 not faith, but it is as widely separated from faith as the east is from the west. –  
648 {PC 317.3}

649 God's promises are rich, and full, and free. Whoever will comply with the  
650 conditions may claim these promises, with all their wealth of blessing, as his  
651 own. And being thus abundantly supplied from the treasure-house of God, he  
652 may, in the journey of life, "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing," [Col.  
653 1:10] thus blessing his fellow-men, and honoring his Creator. While our  
654 Saviour would guard his followers from self-confidence by the reminder,  
655 "Without me, ye can do nothing," he has coupled with it for our  
656 encouragement the gracious assurance, "He that abideth in me, and I in him,  
657 the same bringeth forth much fruit." {ST, March 10, 1887 par. 15}

658 You must become acquainted with Him, that you may when in trial lay your  
659 perplexities before Him. **Go right by yourself and tell Him all about it, as a**  
660 **child would go to his parents. Go to our Saviour, and just tell Him your**  
661 **necessities.** What we need is to be in harmony with Him. Ask Him to lay His  
662 fashioning hand upon you, that you may have His image in your life. **"Ask**  
663 **what ye will, and it shall be done."** [Verse 7.] {Ms77-1910.7} **You will ask**  
664 **in the right spirit; you will pray in the right spirit; your actions will be in**  
665 **accordance, and the fruit of the vine will be produced.** It is the fruit that

666 Christ wants. Why? Because you are abiding in Christ. **You will not ask**  
667 **things that are unreasonable if you abide in Him and He in you.** “If ye  
668 abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall  
669 be done unto you.” [Verse 7.] Thank the Lord. If I had not had this promise  
670 given to me when I was twelve years old and onward for several years when I  
671 was trying to get an experience, I should have been in despair, and I think my  
672 life would have gone out. {Ms77-1910.8}

673

674

675 John 15:8 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye  
676 be my disciples.”

677

678 “Herein is my Father glorified.” (vs. 8)

679 “Ye are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before men, that they  
680 may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

681 “Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My  
682 disciples,” **God is glorified in His children as they in their character**  
683 **represent Christ.** Jesus says, “He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same  
684 bringeth forth much fruit.” **Good works are the fruit borne upon the**  
685 **Christian tree.** It is impossible to be a disciple of Christ and be a  
686 fruitless branch. **But the good works are wrought by Christ Himself**  
687 **through the human agent.** And those who are doers of the words of Christ,  
688 will not only impart blessings of the highest order to others, but as they by  
689 their likeness and obedience to Christ represent His character, they bring joy  
690 to the heart of Christ and to all the holy ones of heaven. {PrT December  
691 29, 1892, par. 8}

692 He [Christ] enjoins the disciples to show distinctly the depth and clearness and  
693 fullness and reality of the work of the Holy Spirit of God upon the human  
694 heart. They **have the depth and clearness of the genuine love of God, for in**  
695 **their experience it carries its own credentials. Their characters and work**  
696 **bear careful examination, for the fruit testifies of the character of the**  
697 **tree.** {Ms204-1903.3}

698

699 “Bear much fruit” (vs. 8)

700 “That ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be My disciples.” {Ms86-1910} Now  
701 this is said to every one of us. It is left for us in the Word, that we should take  
702 this Word, and we should believe the Word, and we should accept the Word.  
703 **And we should in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth claim large**  
704 **blessings, and then we will have the large blessings to bestow.** God wants  
705 us to increase in faith, in love, in knowledge, and in rejoicing in the God of  
706 our salvation. {Ms86-1910}

707 If we are branches of the true vine, we shall bear fragrant fruit. We shall  
708 derive our strength from Christ. **If our fruit testifies that we are branches of**  
709 **the true vine, we shall have divine credentials, and may be assured that**  
710 **our ways please God.** Jesus says, “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit,  
711 he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may



712 bring forth more fruit.” [John 15:2.] If you are really branches of the true vine,  
713 nourished by the sap that flows from the vine to the branches, you will be  
714 partakers of the divine nature. **You will have moral power from Christ by**  
715 **which to overcome Satan, to hate sin, and you cannot be silent concerning**  
716 **the truth.** {Ms116-1894.3}

717 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.” [John 15:8.] **Here is**  
718 **the test, the criterion before the world that we are branches of the True**  
719 **Vine.** Our profession alone is no proof. The **only real proof that we bear to**  
720 **the world that we are Christians is the quality of fruit which we bear.** “By  
721 their fruits ye shall know them.” [Matthew 7:20.] Heavenly intelligences  
722 never make a mistake. {Lt16e-1892.9}

723 The **surest evidence we have that Jesus is abiding in the soul temple is**  
724 **[that] there is a sensitiveness to sin, tenderness of conscience, and of a**  
725 **growing sense of the preciousness of Jesus.** The name of Jesus seems full of  
726 fragrance. There is a living sense that the soul is connected with divine power,  
727 for the heart is in sympathy with His mind and purposes. {Ms48-1890}

728 **If we are branches in the True Vine, we will bear fragrant fruit;** the Holy  
729 Spirit inspires all who are branches in Christ Jesus. We derive our support and  
730 strength from Him. **If, by our fruit, we show that we are branches of the**  
731 **True Vine, we have the divine credentials;** we have the witness that our  
732 ways please God. “Every branch,” He says, “that beareth fruit, he purgeth it,  
733 that it may bring forth more fruit.” [John 15:2.] The Master prunes His true  
734 branches, stirs its roots, cleanses, purifies it that it may bring forth more fruit.  
735 And the fruit may abide. {Lt16e-1892.10}

736 Sanctification through the truth requires a daily improvement in manner,  
737 address, attitude, and spirit. **If we are branches of the true vine, we shall**  
738 **bear fragrant blossoms and desirable fruit.** In our feebleness and ignorance  
739 we cannot depend upon ourselves; we must not think that there are no  
740 improvements to be made, for **we are to learn daily in the school of Christ,**  
741 **not how to reach the highest place, but to become meek and lowly of**  
742 **heart, pure and undefiled, rising above cheapness and the commonplace.**  
743 We have intercourse with the eternal world, and we must reveal all the light  
744 which we have received from heaven. {TSA 23.3}

745 **Let the church reveal her high and holy character.** ... Earnest work,  
746 through the grace of Christ, carries the triumphs of the cross of Christ to the  
747 very gates of the city of God. {Ms51-1890.40} **These duties performed are**  
748 **not the means of salvation, not a way to earn justification, not the price**  
749 **we pay for heaven; they are the fruits that appear on**  
750 **the branch connected with the living Vine, the natural result of abiding in**  
751 **the Vine.** None of these graces is it possible to produce ourselves. We are to  
752 be fruit-bearing branches. “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much  
753 fruit” (John 15:8), said Jesus. {Ms51-1890.41}

754 **Before men and before angels, by a life of perfect obedience, Christ**  
755 **represented the character of God. Today he is calling upon us to unite**  
756 **with him,** that we may partake of his divine nature, and escape the corruption  
757 that is in the world through lust. “I, if I be lifted up from this earth,” he said,  
758 “will draw all men unto me.” His gracious invitations of mercy are going forth  
759 to all mankind. He is inviting all to come into close connection with him; and

760 those who respond will find life and salvation. **As we connect with**  
 761 **him, unbelieving fear is swept away before living faith, and humble,**  
 762 **grateful confidence becomes an abiding principle in the soul.** {ST  
 763 December 10, 1896, par. 11} **The result of a vital union with Christ should**  
 764 **make all willing to give up everything if only we may be united with him.**  
 765 As the nourishment of the vine is carried to every true branch, so **Christ's**  
 766 **righteousness is imparted to every one who unites with him.** "He was  
 767 made sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness  
 768 of God in him." **As our substitute and surety, our sins are placed to his**  
 769 **account. His grace is given us in large measure, and this vitalizing power**  
 770 **makes us channels of blessing to the world.** "If ye abide in me," he said,  
 771 "and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done  
 772 unto you." "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and  
 773 greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And  
 774 whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may  
 775 be glorified in the Son." {ST December 10, 1896, par. 12} **The Lord is at**  
 776 **hand. Heavenly angels wait to co-operate with God's children in sounding**  
 777 **the message,** "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and  
 778 will not tarry." **The angels can not take our place, but they stand ready to**  
 779 **co-operate with us in drawing souls to Christ; and they are soliciting us to**  
 780 **work in fellowship with them.** These angels survey the ground occupied by  
 781 those who claim to follow Christ. They see the advantage gained by the  
 782 enemy when men and women refuse to unite with Christ, and neglect their  
 783 God-appointed work, and they sorrow over the souls lost in consequence of  
 784 this neglect. {ST December 10, 1896, par. 13}

785 When God's children surrender all to him, **when they are willing to be**  
 786 **pruned of all selfishness and worldliness and to be united to the True**  
 787 **Vine, when one interest predominates—to be one with Christ as he is one**  
 788 **with the Father—then they can indeed bear witness for the truth.** True  
 789 branches of the living Vine, they will bear "much fruit" for him, "being filled  
 790 with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the honor and  
 791 praise of God." {ST December 10, 1896, par. 15}

792

793 "So shall ye be my disciples." (vs. 8)

794 **No matter how great a sinner you have been, if you truly repent of your**  
 795 **sins, you will be forgiven, and He will allow you to stand before Him.** He  
 796 presents His wounded hands to the Father, and declares: "I have graven them  
 797 upon the palms of My hands." **His pierced hands He presents before His**  
 798 **Father as an evidence of His right to ask that men and women shall be**  
 799 **overcomers, if they repent. And every one that sincerely repents of his**  
 800 **sins will be enabled to overcome.** {Ms145-1906.55}

801 Let us seek to get away from our sins. Let us put away sin from us. **Let us**  
 802 **come right to Christ, and say, Here I am, all sinful and polluted. I cast my**  
 803 **helpless soul upon Thee.** I believe in Thee. I will honor Thee upon the earth.  
 804 I will be a partaker of Christ's sufferings on this earth, for He was a partaker  
 805 of suffering on my behalf when He was on earth. **I will, I will yield my whole**  
 806 **heart and affection to Christ.** {Ms145-1906.56}

807 **Look to Christ as your helper. Take him into your heart as an abiding**  
808 **friend. As you do this, his blessing will rest upon you in large measure.**  
809 **You will be kept by the power of God.** The enemy will not be able to lead  
810 you to swerve from your allegiance. – {PC 318.5}

811 **In the fourteenth chapter of John much is said about keeping the**  
812 **commandments of God. “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth**  
813 **them, he it is that loveth me.”** “If a man love me, he will keep my words;  
814 and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode  
815 with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings; and the word which  
816 ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.” **No one can abide in**  
817 **Christ and treat the law of God with indifference and disrespect; for this**  
818 **would be arraying Christ against Christ. In a heart renewed by the Spirit**  
819 **of truth there will be love for all the commandments of God.** Jesus  
820 declares, “I have kept my Father’s commandments;” and all who love Jesus  
821 will live in communion with God and with the Son. **Those who make so**  
822 **much show of rejoicing, saying they are in Christ, but do not obey the**  
823 **commandments of God, do not partake of the nourishment of the living**  
824 **vine. All who are grafted into the parent stock will have a vital union with**  
825 **the living vine. They will love that which Christ loves; their taste will be**  
826 **identical with his.** Jesus plainly stated that when we treasure up his words  
827 and do them, we give evidence that we have that genuine love which makes us  
828 one with the Father. We are one in taste and inclination. The Spirit of Jesus  
829 fills the Christian with his love, his obedience, his joy. “If ye keep my  
830 commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father’s  
831 commandments and abide in his love.” {ST December 28, 1891, par. 15} Man  
832 has voluntarily departed from God. **Jesus came to do a work which no other**  
833 **could do,—to bring man back to his allegiance to God. How unreasonable**  
834 **it is for fallen man to say that Christ’s great work of redemption was for**  
835 **the purpose of making it possible for man to be saved in transgression of**  
836 **the law of God!** If one precept of God’s law could be changed, then Christ  
837 need not have died; but it was because the law of God was unchangeable, and  
838 would hold the sinner in its claims, that Jesus came and died, to reconcile man  
839 to God. His death shows the immutability of the law. The law of God is as  
840 changeless as his own character. Man’s only hope was in the death of Christ.  
841 And in his death Christ bore testimony to the whole universe that Satan’s  
842 efforts to change the law were an utter failure. Now it is demonstrated that  
843 even for the human beings that have been deceived by Satan and made to  
844 transgress the law, there can be no pardon except through the death of the  
845 only-begotten Son of the Infinite God himself, who suffered the penalty of  
846 man’s transgression. And this is the testimony that in the judgment will  
847 condemn every transgressor. {ST December 28, 1891, par. 16}

848 **Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He**  
849 **who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver**  
850 **becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the**  
851 **desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to**  
852 **perish eager to drink of the water of life.** {DA 195.2}

853 No matter how high the profession, **he whose heart is not filled with love for**  
854 **God and his fellowmen is not a true disciple of Christ.** Though he should  
855 possess great faith and have power even to work miracles, yet without love his

856 faith would be worthless. He might display great liberality; but should he,  
857 from some other motive than genuine love, bestow all his goods to feed the  
858 poor, the act would not commend him to the favor of God. In his zeal he  
859 might even meet a martyr's death, yet if not actuated by love, he would be  
860 regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite.—The  
861 Acts of the Apostles, 318, 319 (1911). {1MCP 242.3}

862 There is a **wide difference between a pretended union and a real**  
863 **connection with Christ by faith.** A profession of the truth places men in the  
864 church, but this does not prove that they have a vital connection with the  
865 living Vine. **A rule is given by which the true disciple may be**  
866 **distinguished from those who claim to follow Christ but have not faith in**  
867 **Him. The one class are fruit bearing, the other, fruitless.** The one are often  
868 subjected to the pruning knife of God that they may bring forth more fruit; the  
869 other, as withered branches, are ere long to be severed from the living  
870 Vine.... {NL 44.1}

871 **Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is meekness, patience, gentleness,**  
872 **and long-suffering. A true disciple of Christ will seek to imitate the**  
873 **Pattern.** He will study to do the will of God on earth as it is done in heaven.  
874 ... {5T 613.3} **He who would reform others must first reform himself.** He  
875 must obtain the spirit of his Master and be willing, like Him, to suffer  
876 reproach and to practice self-denial. In comparison with the worth of one soul,  
877 the whole world sinks into insignificance. A desire to exercise authority, to  
878 lord it over God's heritage, will, if indulged, result in the loss of souls. Those  
879 who really love Jesus will seek to conform their own lives to the Pattern and  
880 will labor in His spirit for the salvation of others. {5T 614.1}

881

882 A Final Thought

883 It is for our well-being, for our eternal interest, to heed the words of Christ,  
884 "Abide in me, and I in you." This work is mutual. **You must choose to abide**  
885 **in Christ, and then Christ will choose to abide in you.** {ST December 21,  
886 1891, par. 6}

Compiled by Dan Augsburg

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