

January 15th 2006
“Why Dose it Hurt? Chosen for Fruitfulness”
John 15:1-17

“Our union with Christ is a living union, so we may bear fruit; a loving union, so that we may enjoy Him; and a lasting union, so that we need not be afraid.”

John 15:1-5

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener² 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.³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ Remain in me, and I will 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.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

God's Plan for our Fruitfulness Requires:

1) Discipline

Vs. 2 He cuts off (literally means “to lift up”) every branch in me that bears no fruit,

Deut 8:5

You should realize that just as a parent disciplines a child, the LORD your God disciplines you to help you. (NLT)

Prov 13:24

If you refuse to discipline your children, it proves you don't love them; if you love your children, you will be prompt to discipline them. (NLT)

God Disciplines us with:

a) Rebukes

Heb 12:5-6

... You have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

⁶ *because the Lord disciplines those he loves,
and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."*

Heb 12:11

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Heb 12:10

God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

Heb 12:8

If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Heb 12:5

"My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, (NLT)

b) Chastening

Heb 12:6 *For whom the LORD loves He **chastens**, (NKJV)*

c) Scourging

Heb 12:6

And he scourges every son whom he receives. (NASU)

Heb 12:6

When he whips you, it proves you are really his child." (TLB)

"God whispers to us in our pleasures and shouts to us in our pain."

- C.S. Lewis

Discipline's Goal

Heb 12:11

*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it **produces a harvest of righteousness and peace** for those who have been trained by it.*

Ps 139:23-24

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.*

²⁴ *Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (NLT)*

Conviction vs. Condemnation

Conviction (True Guilt)

Condemnation (False Guilt)

When The Holy Spirit Convicts:

Satan:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. He Gives Specifics | Deals in Generalities |
| 2. It's Simple | Makes it Complicated |
| 3. He Leads/ Draws to Christ | Drives us from Christ |
| 4. The Focus is on the Lord | The Focus is on Self |
| 5. You Have Hope | Leads You to Despair |
| 6. Leads to Submission & Fellowship | Leads to Isolation |

2) Pruning

John 15:2 ... *every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

Col 4:12

... that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (NKJV)

Ps 66:10-12

For you, O God, tested us;

you refined us like silver...

¹² *... we went through fire and water,*

but you brought us to a place of abundance.

“Pain was the loving and legitimate violence necessary to produce my liberty.” -- **Blaise Pascal** --

Phil 3:10-11

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Heb 12:2-3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

WIZARD OF ID

