

## Two Ways to Remain in Jesus: Bearing Fruit and Becoming His Disciple

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Received: 16/12/2021

Revision: 16/12/2021

Accepted: 16/12/2021

Online: 16/12/2021

### Abstract

#### Keywords:

Remain in Jesus,  
fruitful life, true  
vine, parable,  
bearing fruit

Remaining in Jesus, in God, that is the main content of John's 15 gospel chapter. In the parable of the true vine (1-8), John shows the importance of remaining in Jesus like a branch with a vine(5). Besides, he also showed that there are ways and what to know that we remain in Jesus. according to John, there are two ways remain in Jesus that is bearing fruit and becoming His disciple. And when we are pruned, cleaned and asked whatever that is the sign to know we remain in Jesus.

### Introduction

Remaining in Jesus, in God, that is the main content of John's 15 gospel chapter. In the parable of the true vine(1-8) (John, 2021), John shows the importance of remaining in Jesus like a branch with a vine (5) (John, 2021). Besides, he also showed that there are ways and what to know that we remain in Jesus. according to John, there are two ways remain in Jesus that is bearing fruit and becoming His disciple. And when we are pruned, cleaned and asked whatever that is the sign to know we remain in Jesus.

### Literature review & Discussion

To understand this parable, we need to know its structure clearly because the Bible is an ancient text so its structure is not the same as the structure of today's text. The priest Vu Phan Long (OFM.) presented the concentric structure of this parable with verse 5 as the center ( A = 1-2; B = 3-4a; C = 4bcd; **D = 5**; C'= 6; B'= 7; A'= 8). "I am the vine and

you are the branches. As long as you bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing” (5) (John, 2021). With verse 5, father Long said: “The text highlights the central theme of the need to remain in Jesus so His disciples bear fruit.”<sup>1</sup> (Vu, 2018)

Therefore, i think “bear fruit” is the first way of “remain” because if a branch “remain” doesn’t “bear fruit”, it will be cut off even though it is green. Jesus said that in parable: “if any of my branches doesn’t bear fruit, he (Father) breaks it off” (2). Saint John said in first letter: “Whoever keeps His commands remains in God and God in him” (1John 3,24) and Jesus said: “This is my command, that you love one another” (John 15,17). So that according to John, remain in Jesus is keeping Jesus commands which are loving one another that is “bear fruit”. John explains: “His command is that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another” (1John 3,23).

“I am vine and you are branches”(Jonh 15,5) Jesus not say to everyone but He just say to His disciples. They are the peoples beliving in the name of his Son Jesus Christ (1John 3,23) because with unbelievers they can not remain so Jesus could not compare them with branches. Therefore the second way of “remain” in Jesus that is to become His disciples because disciples remain in love of God. Jesus said to His disciples: “you will remain in my love if you keep Father’s commandments and remain in his love” (John 15,10). Disciples are chosen by Jesus, they live with Him and He sent them to go like Jesus said: “you did not choose me; it was i who chose you” (John 15,16).

“Bear fruit” and “become disciple” are two ways remain in Jesus but what is the measure to know that Jesus remains in us? Father Long presented 3 measure to know Jesus remains in us.

In the parable, the branches bear fruit that are pruned by Father who want them to bear more fruit. We can understand, the branches are the people having Jesus because He said: “Apart from me you can do nothing” (5) (John, 2021).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://catechesis.net/ga-151-8-cay-nho-that-3/>

“You are already made clean by the word I have spoken to you” (3). Jesus made clean His disciples by His words therefore when Jesus remain in us, we become clean because His word or revelation that purified man.

His remainder in disciples was a condition for their prayers to be done because Jesus said: “if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you want, and it will be given to you” (7) (John, 2021).

## Conclusion

Summary, according to John we have two ways to remain in Jesus that is “bear fruit” and “become disciple”. Besides we also know Jesus in another one when we see they are pruned by difficult; their life become clean because they follow the word of God; and their prayers have power in the eyes of God and be always given.

## References

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