



## *Secure and Sure (Part 3)*

BY: Chris Harper, AD

Where do you stand? Security and assurance are two things that Christ offers, and they are two things that Christ promises. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 15, Christ describes himself as the vine unto which the branch is connected. In verse 4, Christ makes an extraordinary promise, "remain in me and I

are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned" (vs. 2-6).

The only way to escape the fire of God's righteous judgment is to remain connected to the Vine. I ask the question again, "Where do you stand?" Better yet, "To whom are you connected?"

Those who find security and

*Judas, once connected to the vine, was broke off, bound up, and thrown into the fire.*

will remain in you." Those who are connected to the Vine will remain connected forever.

You must remain connected, but some branches will not (vs. 2, vs. 6). God's word clearly dictates what will happen to dead, or false, branches;

"...my Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit...He is like a branch that is thrown away and withers...such branches

assurance connected to the vine of Christ willingly do two things:

- 1) Produce Fruit
- 2) Obey His commands

Ask yourself today, "Am I producing fruit?" Examining one's life closely should be a daily exercise. Jesus said "this is the Father's glory" (vs. 8). What is the Father's glory? That we should "bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be Disciples of Christ." What is

## *Upcoming events*

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**2/14 – Last Day for Spring Sports Registration!!!**

2/14 – G V Sectional at New Washington, Time TBD

2/15 – Elementary Basketball, 9 a.m.

2/15 – B JV/V at Southwestern (Hanover), 12 p.m.

2/25– B JV/V vs. Crothersville, 6 p.m.  
*Senior Night*

2/25 – Elementary Cheer Night at Boys V Game, 7 p.m.

your fruit count? Goodness, joy, and peace; “Do you have these things today?” Not just fleeting attempts at human submission, not a book giving you instructions on how to be “a better you”, and not attempting to find inner-peace through yoga, but real, biblical fruit. Fruit that hasn’t been socially constructed, but cultivated, watered, and grown by and through the power and spirit of God. Notice the Word states we will “bear fruit,” and that we will “show ourselves to be Disciples.” This is nothing of our own doing, but something that happens organically because we are connected to the Vine. We are simply the host, a branch that displays the fullness and beauty that is the Vine. Do people look at you and see Christ? That is the ultimate question.

Lastly, “Do you obey his commands?” A better way of

asking this is, “Do you love Christ?” and “Does He love you?” Christ says, “If you obey my commands you will remain in my love.” In other words, if you love Him you will obey Him, and when you obey Him you will reside in His love. We do not obey Christ to garner His love, we obey and follow Christ because of His love and because He first loved us. It is His love that compels us to follow Him with reckless abandon, obeying His word, drinking in the life He gives us from the vine.

Then, “What commands do we obey?” His commands. Those connected to the Vine have an earnest desire to do what pleases the Father. What pleases the Father? Obeying His son.

Right now, if you examined your life, can you say, without hesitation, you look like Christ?

Are you producing fruit and following His ways?

Or, “Are you like Judas?” Connected to the Vine, a branch among branches, walking, talking, even performing miracles like the other braches did. Yet, over time, his fruit grew barren as he continually choose his way before the way of Christ. Judas, once connected to the vine, was broke off, bound up, and thrown into the fire.

Security and assurance rest in the Vine. Stay connected. Live a life that reflects the giver of life. Be secure, be assured, and stay connected to the Vine.

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