

UNCOVERING THE REAL JESUS IN THE BOOK OF JOHN

the real
JESUS

...for my people, my Jewish
brothers and sisters. I would
be willing to be forever cursed
—cut off from Christ!—if that
would save them.

Romans 9:3

Yes, everything else is worthless
when compared with the infinite
value of knowing Christ Jesus my
Lord. For his sake I have discarded
everything else, counting it all as
garbage, so that I could gain Christ .

Philippians 3:8



"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.² 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.

John 15:1,2

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ 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.

John 15:3,4

"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.⁶ If you do not
remain in me, you are like a branch
that is thrown away and withers; such
branches are picked up, thrown into
the fire and burned.

John 15:5,6

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:7,8

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

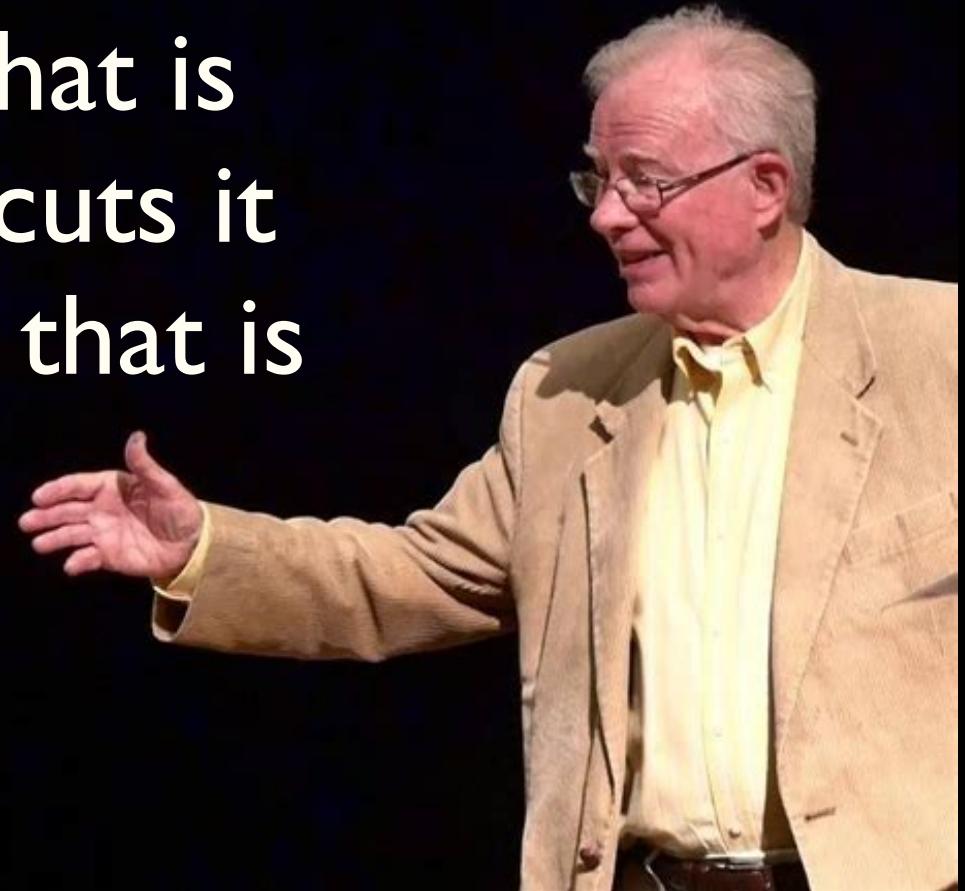
¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:9-11



F. Dale Bruner

American Biblical Theologian & Author

“Every branch in me that is not bearing fruit—he cuts it off. And every branch that is bearing fruit—he cuts it back so that it may bear even more fruit.”





² He cuts off every

branch **in me** that

bears no fruit,

How can anyone who is “in Christ” not be fruitful?



² He cuts off every branch **in me**
that bears no fruit,

How can anyone who is “in Christ” not be fruitful?

At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.

John 6:66

How can anyone who is “in Christ” not be fruitful?

Then many who heard him say these things believed in him. Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.

John 8:31

How can anyone who is “in Christ” not be fruitful?

So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.²⁵ And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us.

1 John 2:24,25

"Remain in me,
and I will
remain in you.

John 15:4a



What does it mean to “ABIDE”?



1. Connection to Christ



Remain in me, as I
will remain in you.
John 15:4a

2. Dependence on Jesus



No branch can
bear fruit by itself
John 15:4b

2. Dependence on Jesus



...apart from me
you can do
nothing.

John 15:5

3. Continuing in Christ.



"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."

John 8:31





Gary Burge

New Testament scholar:

"The living branch is attached and growing from the vine. This means that Christianity isn't about believing the right things (though this is important). Nor is it a matter of living a Christ-like life (also important).



Gary Burge

New Testament scholar:

"Christian experience must necessarily have a spiritual, non-quantifiable dimension. To be a disciple means having a supernatural, interior experience that is completely unlike anything available in the world."



so that it will be even more fruitful.

vs. 2

you will bear much fruit;

vs. 5

that you bear much fruit,

vs.8

I have told you this so
that my joy may be in
you and that your joy
may be complete. vs. 11

What is the fruit?



Jesus
mentions two
of these fruits.

What is the fruit?



“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

John 15:9

What is the fruit?



“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

John 15:10



What is the fruit?



"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love"

John 15:10a

What is the fruit?



“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

John 15:10



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“Some may look at experiences in which they seemed (or still seem) to be experiencing diminishment, hurtful cutting back, detachment, reduction in influence,



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“...and nevertheless in light of our text, can say to themselves in hope: ‘pruning!’ and so gain a whole new perspective.”





