

## The True Vine: Our Union with Christ

At times, the Bible uses imagery, parables, and other styles to reveal spiritual truths. These make heavenly realities relatable to everyday life while also showing that all creation exists for the glory of God. From the smallest detail to the vastness of the cosmos, creation points back to Him and bears witness to His nature and eternal purpose.

We see this pattern from the very beginning of God's covenant promise to Abraham. God brought Abram outside and said, "Look toward heaven and number the stars, if you are able to number them... so shall your offspring be." The visible heavens became a picture of an invisible spiritual reality — the multitude of sons who would come through faith.

In the same way, the Scriptures describe the Body of Christ through many different images and pictures. These are invitations from the Spirit into living revelations that are rich with meaning and spiritual depth. God does not merely communicate doctrine; He reveals heavenly realities through forms that can be seen, contemplated, and spiritually understood (revelation).

Over the last few weeks, I have been meditating on our position in the Body of Christ and what it truly means to be members of His Body. This ties in with the translation theme that we have going through.

The Bible says that Christ is the true Vine. As I have reflected on this, the Spirit has unfolded this imagery in a vivid and living way.

Christ is not merely compared to a vine as poetic symbolism; rather, the vine reveals a profound spiritual reality concerning our union with Him. A vine is one living organism with many branches sharing one life, one source, and one flow. The branches possess no independent life in themselves — they live entirely by abiding in the vine. In the same way, we who are in Christ partake of His very life. His Spirit flows through every member, nourishing, strengthening, and producing fruit.

Though the branches are many, they remain inseparably one with the vine. So also, the members of Christ are many, yet together form one Body. What flows through the Vine flows into every branch. The life of the Head becomes the life of the members.

We are joined to this Vine through the finished work of the cross. By the Spirit, we have been grafted into Christ and made one with Him (embedded). Through His death and resurrection, our old identity has been crucified and buried with Him, and we now live as new creations sharing in His resurrected life.

This imagery becomes even more profound when we consider how a vine spreads, climbs, and extends outward. Christ, the heavenly Vine, stretches through every realm — from earth into the heavens and far above all rule and authority where He is seated at the right hand of the Father. As branches joined to Him, our life is hidden in a reality far above the natural realm (alignment).

As we ascend in this heavenly reality, we behold that Christ has led captivity captive. Through the blood of the Lamb, the powers that once held humanity in bondage have been defeated. Principalities and authorities have been disarmed and publicly put to shame through the triumph of the cross. Though they continue to raise false arguments and exalt themselves against the knowledge of God, in Christ we demolish strongholds, take captive every thought, and bring it into obedience to Him (authorisation).

From Christ, the anointed Head, the oil of the Spirit flows down upon every member, just as the anointing oil flowed from Aaron's head upon the rest of his body. Each member receives this heavenly anointing, sharing in the grace of God for nourishment, growth, maturity, and love.

In the heavenly places, the Church stands as a radiant display of God's manifold wisdom. Like a flourishing Vine filled with life and fruitfulness, the Body of Christ reveals the wisdom and grace of God to the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly realm. All creation beholds what God has accomplished through His Son.

Christ, the Vine, ascended far above all the heavens in order to fill all things. Through His Body, the fullness of God is expressed throughout creation. The Vine stretches through heaven and earth, carrying His life into every member and extending His presence everywhere.

Within these open heavens, the Spirit reveals the immeasurable dimensions of the love of Christ — its breadth and length and height and depth. Here we discover the inexhaustible riches of our inheritance: healing, reconciliation, peace, righteousness, adoption, and every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Here we also see how completely our former identity and sins have been removed from us — as far as the east is from the west.

This Vine does not restrict access to God; rather, Christ Himself is the living way into the Father's presence. Through His flesh, the veil has been opened, and what was once a barrier has become an invitation to approach the throne of grace with boldness.

Hidden in Christ, and Christ hidden in the Father, we are brought into the very heart of God. Our lives are now concealed with Christ in God. As we abide in Him, our old independent identity gives way to union with His life.

In the heavenly court, the accuser may still attempt to bring charges, but the identity he accuses has already died with Christ. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of His testimony. Our sins have been washed away, our old self was crucified with Him, and we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit as God's own possession.

Having been incorporated into Christ and made actual members of His Body, He now sends us forth as His ambassadors in the earth (**WE ARE SENT FROM GOD**). We carry His life, proclaim His word, and continue His ministry of reconciliation, inviting others to be joined to the same heavenly Vine (obedience).

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. In Him we live and move and have our being. Rooted in the Vine, hidden in the Father, and filled with the Spirit, we become the living expression of Christ — His Body, His fullness, filling everything everywhere.

### **Conclusion/prayer**

If you came looking for a miracle, looking for an answer, I have good news for you!

Jesus is the miracle and the answers and we live in Him. By extension, we are therefore the miracles and answers.

Let's offer prayers of thanks giving not as outsiders, but as insiders! Thanking God for the Vine that we have now become part of.