

John 15:1-17

15 ¹“I am the Vine and **the One who gave me life** is the vine grower. ² **The One who gave me life** cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear fruit. And every branch that is fruitful the vine grower prunes back so it will bear even more. ³ You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

⁴“Live on in me, as I do in you. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear fruit by itself apart from the vine, you can’t bear fruit apart from me.

⁵“I am the Vine; you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relationship intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. ⁶ Separated from me, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. ⁷ But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. ⁸ This is what **the One who gave me life** glories in, when you produce fruit, when you mature as my disciples.

⁹“I’ve loved you the way **the One who gave me life** has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept the commands of **the One who gave me life** and made myself at home in the Spirit of that love.

¹¹“I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. ¹² This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. ¹³ There is no greater love than to put your life on the line for your friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends when you do the things I command you. ¹⁵ I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from **the One who gave me life**.

¹⁶“You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask **the One who gave me life** in relation to me, **the One who gave me life** gives you.

¹⁷“But remember the root command: Love one another.”