

## I. Vine Imagery in the Old Testament

### A. Typical passages

1. Isaiah 5
2. Jeremiah 2:21
3. Ezekiel 15

### B. Common features of the passages

1. Always speak of Israel
2. Always speak of failure
3. Always carry the threat of judgment

## II. I Am the True Vine – Abide in Me John 15:1-8

### A. The reason the vine exists is to bear fruit

1. Fruit comes through discipleship

### B. Method of bearing fruit for the branch is to abide – remain in contact

1. The church has a calling with an enabling
2. Apart from this relationship the disciples are nothing

### C. Benefit of abiding in Christ

1. Enables a flow of life resulting in fruitfulness
2. Creates the potential of powerful praying

### **III. I Have Loved You – Abide in My Love**

#### **John 15:9-16**

- A. The disciples have been loved by the Lord in the same way He is loved by His Father
  
- B. All of the Christian life grows out of that love
  - 1. Remain there
  
  - 2. Live in this realization
  
- C. What is the outworking of abiding in the love of Christ?
  - 1. The disciples keep the Lord's commandments
  
  - 2. The disciples love each other
  
- D. In His love the Lord shares with His disciples what He is doing
  
- E. The benefit of abiding in the love of Christ
  - 1. Security – I have chosen you
  
  - 2. Fruitfulness – bearing the fruit that remains
  
  - 3. Power in praying – that whatever you ask