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Read John 15:1-8. In Jesus' vineyard metaphor we see the Father as the vinedresser, Jesus as the true vine, disciples as the branches and the goal is abundant fruit. The fruit that God is producing in us is Christ-like character. Read Galatians 5:22-23, Titus 3:14, Colossians 1:10, Hebrews 13:15, Romans 15:28, Philippians 4:17, John 4:36.

How do we cultivate a fruitful life; a life that displays Christ-like character? Scripture shows us 3 steps:

i) Read John 15:4. The first way is *remaining connected with Jesus*. It is believing in Him, trusting in Him and living in vital union with Him. This is the fullness of the Gospel, Christ in us and the fruit of transformed character in us. Is your life vitally connected to Jesus? What does it mean to you to abide in Christ?

ii) Read John 15:1,2b. The second way is submitting to God's discipline. God will use persecution, seasons of humility, loss and suffering to grow us. God will remove things or *prune* things in our life to bring about fruit. How much are you allowing God to transform you? How much energy are you putting in for Christ to shape your life?

iii) Read John 15:7,8. The last way we cultivate a fruitful life is *praying to grow more Christ-like*. We are to co-operate & pursue Jesus to be transformed, our prayers shouldn't be driven by a heavenly "gold card" to get anything we want. Do you need to pray more earnestly and frequently for increased fruit and character? How often do you pray to God to make you more fruitful?

Lastly, we can see fruit on a continuum, we start to see some fruit as we abide in Him, we gain more fruit as we abide and God prunes our lives, we see much fruit when we abide,



Jesus says

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Abide in Me to Bear Fruit

when God prunes us and we pray for Jesus to transform us. How much fruit are you bearing in your life - none, some, more, much?