

John 15:1-6

Verse 1A This is the last of the seven "I AM" statement of Christ. The Greek word used is Ego Eimi which is the name of God (Yahweh) given to Moses in Exodus 3:14. By declaring this, Jesus is declaring His deity. This "I AM" statement is unique in the fact that "I AM" statement mentions the Father in conjunction.

- I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35,41, 48, 51)
- I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- I AM the Door of the Sheep (John 10:7,9)
- I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
- I AM the True Vine (John 15:1)

Israel is referred to as the vine/vineyard in the Old Testament

- **Isaiah 3:13-15** The Lord arises to contend, And stands to judge the people. ¹⁴The Lord enters into judgment with the elders and princes of His people, "It is you who have devoured the vineyard; The plunder of the poor is in your houses. ¹⁵"What do you mean by crushing My people And grinding the face of the poor?" Declares the Lord ¹⁶God of hosts.
- **Isaiah 5:1-7** Let me sing now for my well-beloved A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on ¹a fertile hill. ²He dug it all around, removed its stones, And planted it with ³the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it And also hewed out a ⁴wine vat in it; Then He expected *it* to produce *good* grapes, But it produced *only* ⁵worthless ones. ⁶"And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge between Me and My vineyard. ⁷"What more was there to do for My vineyard ⁸that I have not done in it? Why, when I expected *it* to produce *good* grapes did it produce ⁹worthless ones? ¹⁰"So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground. ¹¹"I will lay it waste; It will not be pruned or hoed, But briars and thorns will come up. I will also charge the clouds to rain no rain on it." ¹²For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel And the men of Judah His delightful plant. Thus He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; For righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress.
- **Isaiah 27:1-6** In that day the Lord will punish ¹Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even ²Leviathan the twisted serpent; And He will kill the dragon who *lives* in the sea. ³In that day, "A ⁴vineyard of wine, sing of it! ⁵"I, the Lord, am its keeper; I water it every moment. So that no one will ⁶damage it, I guard it night and day. ⁷"I have no wrath. Should ⁸someone give Me briars *and* thorns in battle, *Then* I would step on them, I would burn them ⁹completely. ¹⁰"Or let him ¹¹rely on My protection, Let him make peace with Me, Let him make peace with Me." ¹²In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, And they will fill the ¹³whole world with fruit.
- **Psalms 80:1-14** Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned *above* the cherubim, shine forth! ²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your power And come to save us! ³O God, restore us And cause Your face to shine *upon* us, ⁴and we will be saved. ⁵O Lord God of hosts, How long will You ⁶be angry with the prayer of Your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears, And You have made them to drink tears in ⁷large measure. ⁸You make us ⁹an object of contention to our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves. ¹⁰O God of hosts, restore us And cause Your face to shine *upon* us, ¹¹and we will be saved. ¹²You removed a vine from Egypt; You drove out the ¹³nations and planted it. ¹⁴You cleared *the ground* before it, And it took deep root and filled the land. ¹⁵The mountains were covered with its shadow, And ¹⁶the cedars of God with its boughs. ¹⁷It was sending out its branches to the sea And its shoots to the River. ¹⁸Why have You broken down its ¹⁹hedges, So that all who pass *that way* pick its *fruit*? ²⁰A boar from the forest eats it away And whatever moves in the field feeds on it. ²¹O God of hosts, turn again now, we beseech You; Look down from heaven and see, and take care of this vine,
- **Jeremiah 2:21** "Yet I planted you a choice vine, A completely faithful seed. How then have you turned yourself before Me Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?"
- **Matthew 21:33-46** "Listen to another parable. There was a ¹landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to ²vine-growers and went on a journey. ³When the ⁴harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. ⁵The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. ⁶Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. ⁷But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ⁸But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' ⁹They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ¹⁰Therefore when the ¹¹owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" ¹²They ¹³said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched

end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the *proper* seasons.”⁴² Jesus *said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner *stone*; This came about from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes?’⁴³ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a [L]people, producing the fruit of it.⁴⁴ And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them.⁴⁶ When they sought to seize Him, they feared the [L]people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.

Israel is mentioned as a son

- **Exodus 4:21-22** The Lord said to Moses, “When you go [L]back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your [L]power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.²² Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Israel is My son, My firstborn.
- **Psalms 80:15-19** Even the [L]shoot which Your right hand has planted, And on the [L]son whom You have [L]strengthened for Yourself.¹⁶ It is burned with fire, it is cut down; They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.¹⁷ Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself.¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.¹⁹ O Lord God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine *upon us*, [L]and we will be saved.
- **Hosea 11:1** When Israel *was* a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.
- **Matthew 2:13-15** Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord *appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”¹⁴ So [L]Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.¹⁵ He [L]remained there until the death of Herod. *This was* to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Jesus is the Vine, the true Israel of God By Jesus claiming to be the true Vine, He is saying that He is the true Israel of God. He is the true vine, the true Son of Man, the true Servant of God (Isaiah 53). The nation of Israel was the vineyard that God had planted and expected them to produce fruit. However, as a nation overall, rebelled against God and produced no good fruit in and of themselves outside of God which led to judgment and exile. He had given them the law, but they were unable to keep it perfectly. The promises given to Israel would be fulfilled in Christ who is the true Vine and Son. Christ is the true Israel as He is the true Vine, the promised Son, and the servant of God and only those who are “in Christ” will produce fruit pleasing to God.

- **Christ is the fulfillment of the promises given to Israel.**
 - **2 Corinthians 1:20** For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.
- **Jesus is the son of Abraham (the father of Israel) and David as the promises of given to Abraham and to David are fulfilled in Christ.**
 - **Matthew 1:1** The [L]record of the genealogy of [L]Jesus [L]the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:
 - **Galatians 3:16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.
- **As He is the true vine and Israel of God, all who believe in Him are in union with Him and grafted into spiritual Israel through belief in Christ as He is the seed promised unto Abraham.**
 - **Romans 9:6-9** But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s [L]descendants, but: “[L]through Isaac your [L]descendants will be named.”⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as [L]descendants.⁹ For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.”
 - **Galatians 6:16** And those who will [L]walk by this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

The nation of Israel was led out of Egypt, passed through the water, led into the wilderness to be tempted, failed to keep the law perfectly, and because of their sin judgment and exile came. Christ, the true Israel of God came of Egypt, was baptized by John the Baptist, tempted in the wilderness and succeeded, and then succeeded in keeping the Law perfectly. Jesus the true Israel of God would be our merciful High Priest, the suffering Servant, and the true sacrifice at temple. He would have judgment brought upon Himself, but not for His sins, but rather for His elect who are spiritual Israel. As a result of our union with the true Israel, the true Vine which is Christ we are regarded as spiritual Israel and will inherit the true promised land forever! This only possible by abiding and being in union with Christ, the true Vine!

Verse 1B What makes this I AM statement unique from the other 6 I AM statements is that in this one, Jesus mentions the Father in conjunction.

- Jesus is the true Vine, God the Father is the Vinedresser. The vinedresser was one who owned, planted, and tended the vineyard. In this statement we see the economic view of the Trinity as the roles between the Father and the Son are distinguished.
- The Father is involved, active, and overseeing every aspect of the lives of the branches, the elect. In this we see the love of the Father upon His elect.
 - The Father elects and joins us to the Vine (**Ephesians 1:3-5**) (**John 6:37**)(**John 17:20-26**)(**Romans 8:29**)
 - The Father causes us to be born again (**1 Peter 1:3**)
 - The Father sends the Spirit (**John 14:6**)
 - The Father prunes the branches (**John 15:2**)

Verse 2 Jesus will repeat the idea of abiding “in Him” or being “in Him” which speaks the union of Sonship we have in Him via our adoption as Sons. Our union to the true Vine, the true Israel of God is what produces any good fruit. Outside of Christ, no one can produce any Godly fruit that is pleasing to God.

- The branches that don’t bear fruit (those are the ones not in union with Him, but rather professing to be in Him) are taken away. The branches that are in Christ bear fruit, but the Father, the Vinedresser prunes to bear more fruit.
- The production of more fruit speaks of sanctification which is what the elect have been predestined (**Romans 8:29**) to and which is the will of God (**1 Thess 4:3**).
- This verse does not teach that one can lose their salvation. The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints is throughout the entire New Testament including emphatically in this very same book (John).
- What is viewed in this verse is those who profess to be in Christ. Just as the vineyard/vine in the Old Testament represented Israel, there were many Israelites who claimed to love and follow God but were apostate. Professing Christians (like Judas-immediate context) who were not truly abiding in Christ would have no fruit of themselves to please God. The vinedresser comes and takes away the branches that have no fruit (they are not “in Christ”) to burn which is the lake of fire (vs 6).
 - **Matthew 7:15-23** “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will ^[u]know them by their fruits. ^[u]Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So then, you will ^[u]know them by their fruits.²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many ^[u]miracles?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

Verse 3 He tells them that they are already clean, but the word He has spoken to them. We have seen Jesus tell the remaining 11 disciples in the upper room that they are clean already.

- **John 13:5-11** Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶So He *came to Simon Peter. He *said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.” ⁸Peter *said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” ⁹Simon Peter *said to Him, “Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” ¹⁰Jesus *said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you*.” ¹¹For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.”
- **It is His word that cleanses us and helps to produce more fruit.**
 - **Psalms 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word.
 - **Ephesians 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church ^[u]in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
 - **Romans 10:17** So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word ^[u]of Christ.
 - **John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

- In sanctification, there are two aspects: immediate/positional sanctification and progressive sanctification. Immediate/positional sanctification is when we are set apart at the moment of our conversion. However, we continue to progress and grow in sanctification throughout our Christian walk. The same is true regarding abiding. Christians abide in Him at the moment of our salvation, but we can abide in degrees of closeness based on our time in prayer, study, and reading his Word. The more we dwell in Him and His word, the more we by the help of the Holy Spirit will produce more fruit.

Verses 4-5

- The word abide is the Greek transliteration of the word meno which means to stay, remain, live, dwell.
- Jesus is the true Vine and we are the branches. Those in union with Christ via adoption as sons, rests in Christ and as a result our union/abiding in Him, we produce fruit. The fruit that we produce is not of ourselves, but only possible through Christ. We are dependent on Christ to bear fruit.
- Only those who are in Christ produce good fruit and the fruits of the Spirit as they are those sealed by the Spirit.
 - **Galatians 5:22-25** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who **l** belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also **l** walk by the Spirit.
 - **James 3:17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.
- Apart from Christ we can do nothing! This is a sobering verse that should cause any boasting of ourselves to be destroyed. This speaks to our total depravity and inability do anything pleasing to God or produce fruit of ourselves. There is nothing good in us except Christ. Only those abiding in Christ produce fruit and won't be taken away and burned on the Last Day.
 - **Romans 7:18** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not.

Verse 6 Only those who are abiding in the True Vine, Christ which are the who have been born again and are in union with Him will produce good fruits as they are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. Those who not in Christ, remain in Adam and will be gathered and cast into the fire.

- **Matthew 13:36-43** Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the **l**tares of the field." ³⁷ And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, ³⁸ and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*; ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the **l**end of the age; and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the **l**end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom **l**all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, **l**et him hear.
- **Revelation 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose **l**presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and **l**books were opened; and another **l**book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the **l**books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if **l**anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

By the mercy and grace of God the Father, the Vinedresser we have been joined to the true Vine, Jesus. It only through our union with Jesus, the true Vine that we can produce any fruit that is pleasing to God. For those who are not "in Christ" they produce no fruit pleasing to God and will be gathered one day to be burned in the lake of fire forever. The branches that are in the true Vine are being pruned to produce more fruit and will spend eternity with the true Vine, the Vinedresser, and the Holy Spirit forever. Let us never once boast in ourselves, but rather let us give glory to God and God alone because just as Jesus stated we can do nothing without Him!

