

**Secrets of the Vine: John 15**  
**“Pruning for Much Fruit”**  
**2-21-10**

**John 15:1** *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”*

**A. God is the Master Gardner, Jesus is the Vine, and we are the “branches” created to bear Spiritual “Fruit.”**

**B. “Fruit”** - Evidence of God’s Spirit working in us from the inside out.

1. Fruit of the Spirit – begins inside. Galatians 5:22-23
2. Fruit of good works – flows outside. Matt. 5:16

**C. The “Grape Gap”** – What’s the difference between the fruit I’m producing, and the potential God has placed in me?

**D. Main Point: God lovingly intervenes in our lives to prune us so we can bear more fruit!**

1. Pruning involves cutting off the dead branches and cutting back the living branches, both to shape the tree or vine and to stimulate growth.
2. The Master Gardner loves the vineyard, each branch, and all the fruit!
3. God created us and knows exactly how to prune each one of us according to his plans for us.

**E. God’s discipline for sin is different from his pruning for more fruit** - Hebrews 12:5-11

*How do I know if God is “disciplining” me for sin, or “pruning” me?*

*\* ASK HIM! He wants you to know!*

<b>F. Differences:</b>	<b><u>Discipline</u></b>	<b><u>Pruning</u></b>
Fruitfulness:	No fruit (one area)	Some Fruit
Cause:	Sin (personal)	Sin (general)
Negative Feelings:	Guilt / shame	Weary / confused
God’s goal:	Fruit	More Fruit
God’s tools:	Discipline	Trials / Tests
Ungodly response:	Rebel	Resist / Offense
Godly response:	Repent & Submit	Surrender & Receive

**G. RESPONSE: *Trust the Master and surrender to His pruning.***

Example: Joseph - Genesis 30-37

**\*\* Write out your prayer of surrender:**