

Resurrection & the Life

Light of the World
Bread of Life

Gate
Way, Truth, Life
Vine
Good Shepherd

I AM the Vine

**“Where Are You
Staying?”**

John 1:38

the **I AM STATEMENTS** of **JESUS**

I AM the Vine

JOHN 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

the **I AM STATEMENTS** of **JESUS**

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

I AM the Vine

JOHN 15:1-11

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

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3 Point Focus

1. Discuss Vine and branches
2. Show connection between verses 7 and 8 and MACC's mission statement
3. Ask ourselves the question found in John 1:38

I AM the Vine

To show continuity in the scriptures and to reinforce the specific idea understood about "The Vine's" nature let's look at some other analogies of who Jesus is.

1. **Acts 4:11**: This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the **cornerstone**. ¹² And there is **salvation in no one else**, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

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2. **Colossians 1:18:** And he is **the head of the body, the church.**

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3. **Romans 8:29:** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the **firstborn** among many brothers.

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3. **Romans 8:29:** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the **firstborn** among many brothers.
4. **Acts 17:28:** For in Him we live, move and exist.

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3 R's

A. Rescue - Initial Life from Vine

Romans 11:24: For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and **grafted**, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree.

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3 R's

A. Rescue - Initial Life from Vine

John 15: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ **Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.**

I AM the Vine

3 R's

A. Rescue - Initial Life from Vine

John 1:4: In him was life, ...

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3 R's

B. Rely - Sustained Life in the Vine

John 15: 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the **branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine,** neither can you, **unless you abide in me.** **5 I am the vine; you are the branches.** Whoever **abides in me and I in him,** he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing.**

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3 R's

B. Rely - Sustained Life in the Vine

2 Peter 3: His divine power has granted to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the **knowledge** of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

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3 R's

B. Rely - Sustained Life in the Vine

2 Peter 3: ⁵ For this very reason, **make every effort to supplement your faith** with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

3 R's

B. Rely - Sustained Life in the Vine

1. We have been given everything that is required for our new life in regeneration via knowledge of Him. The more complete knowledge the greater the opportunity for understanding.
2. Make **every effort**, vine is the foundation but we should add the practicality of self-discipline which fulfills our role in this process.

I AM the Vine

3 R's

B. Rely - Sustained Life in the Vine

3. V. 8 **For if** then **fruitful**

4. V. 9 Blindness = lack of eternal perspective.

Which kingdom am I working toward?

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3 R's

C. Remain - Security in the Vine

John 15: 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.** **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

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3 R's

C. Remain - Security in the Vine

- Would an orange ask the vine to let it be an apple or a leopard?
- If we are abiding we are going to have the mind of Christ, heart of God and desires spoken of in Psalm 37:4
- Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

I AM the Vine

3 R's

C. Remain - Security in the Vine

Let's discuss our hearts for a moment

- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- Ezekiel 36:26

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Show Connection

MACC's Mission Statement

Mack Avenue Community Church exists to bring honor and attention to God by the power of the Spirit. This is accomplished through: The assembling and equipping of the saints for worship, being faithful witnesses of Christ and through the gospel initiating people into the family of God—the family that exhibits allegiance to Christ through love and service all in the context of unity.

I AM the Vine

Show Connection

Verse 8 says that if we are fruitful then God is glorified. So MACC's mission gives us the opportunity and tools to be fruitful, to grow, to flourish as individual and corporate believers thereby glorifying God as healthy branches from the Vine of all Vines.

the **I AM STATEMENTS** of **JESUS**

Show Connection

MACC, through equipping and assembling, nourishes the saints.

A. Assembling = Church at large does so typically in three ways. Sunday service, midweek service, small groups. MACC has done this via discipleship, but added a significant fourth way: in the "call to community living, living in the zip code." Our model of d-ship under the umbrella of the zip code gives skin to the idea of how to abide in the Vine.

Show Connection

MACC, through equipping and assembling, nourishes the saints.

B. Equipping. Pastors Eric and Leon have one call, shepherding the MACC flock. A specific component under that call to care is equipping "the saints for the work of the ministry" Ephesians 4:12. Virtually everything we do in discipleship points back to our Root, Jesus the vine.

Show Connection

By constantly returning to Jesus, the lifegiver, the vine, fruit is born in the saint by sanctification or fruit bearing and evangelizing, bringing the fruits of conversion. The church, our pastors teach us how to tend to the garden, to draw out fruits. As we do both of these, then God is honored and attention is brought to Him.

I AM the Vine

Show Connection

Per the endeavors of our pastors and our choice of obedience, we;

Are staying connected to the Vine;

Verse by verse Sunday morning teaching, the binder, call to prayer, constant reminders to “look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith”

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Show Connection

Per the endeavors of our pastors and our choice of obedience, we;

Are being sustained by the Vine

The pastors, our disciplers, MACC group leaders are constantly reminding us of "whose we are" and parrot Jesus's words of "apart from me you can do nothing" in verse 5 calling us to make sure we are returning to our source, our vine of life so we may be nourished with soul food and not consume what the world offers as nourishment.

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Show Connection

Per the endeavors of our pastors and our choice of obedience, we;

Find our hope and being in the Vine

Self sufficiency is not preached at MACC. Hope, true hope that has an assurance is only found in Christ, our sure and steady foundation. Would any of us be here if we didn't really believe in eternity? Would we live the same lifestyle if we didn't embrace "if you lose your life for me, then you will find it" mentality?

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John 1:28

***Discipleship answers the question
"Where are you staying?"***

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