# FRUIT BEARING BRANCHES

## JOHN 15:1-3

1. **THE LORD MAKES A STATEMENT OF HIS RELATION TO SUCH BRANCHES: HE IS *THE TRUE VINE* (15:1)**
	1. Vines Exist As The Life Source Of Whatever Tributaries Are Produced
	2. But The Lord Adds A Very Important Distinguishing Qualification: “True”

		1. Vines Were Not Only Common In That Agricultural Society, But Had Particular Significance For The Nation Israel

			1. As A Fruitless Vine, Israel Was A Disappointment To Her Owner
			2. As A Fruitless Vine, Israel Was Worthy To Be Burned With Fire
		2. One Of The Most Common O.T. Designations For The Messiah Was That Of “Branch”
2. **THE HUSBANDMAN PERFORMS A MINISTRY THAT IS DEPENDENT ON THE NATURE OF THE BRANCHES (15:2)**
	1. Fruit Bearing Branches Are Pruned
	2. Fruitless Branches Are Taken Away
3. **THE INSTRUMENT THE HUSBANDMAN USES TO DO HIS WORK OF PRUNING (15:3)**
	1. Our Common Tendency is To Identify The Instrument As Any Painful Experience We Go Through
	2. It Is The Scripture That Does The Pruning