

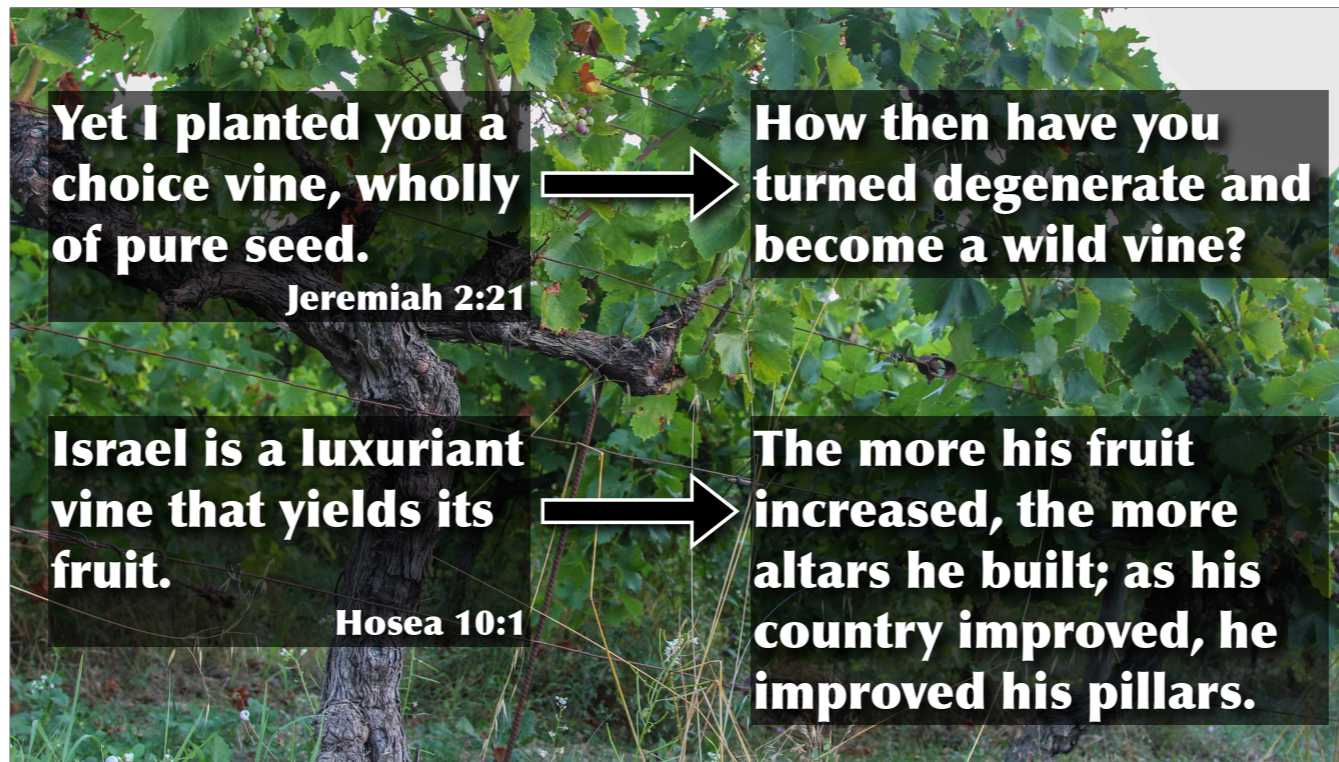
**Yet I planted you a
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of pure seed.**

Jeremiah 2:21

**Israel is a luxuriant
vine that yields its
fruit.**

Hosea 10:1

- Jeremiah 2:21 Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?
- Hosea 10:1 Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars.



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- Why are we together?
 - “church of Christ” = people of Christ, called out of darkness
- What is our relationship with one another based on?
 - And what are the implications of our relationship?
- This is not meant to imply that there is anything amiss with our relationship.
 - However, any relationship is liable to change, whether for better or for worse.
 - Examination, evaluation and study can help us improve our relationship and make sure that it is all that our God desires it to be.



- Our Common Savior



• Romans 5:6-11

- 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God



- Romans 5:6-11
 - 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
- Romans 11:17 (ESV) 17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,



- Our relationship with Christ: “united with him”
- Romans 6:3-7 (ESV) 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. Romans 6:3-7 (ESV) 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.



- Abiding in Jesus

- John 15:5 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.



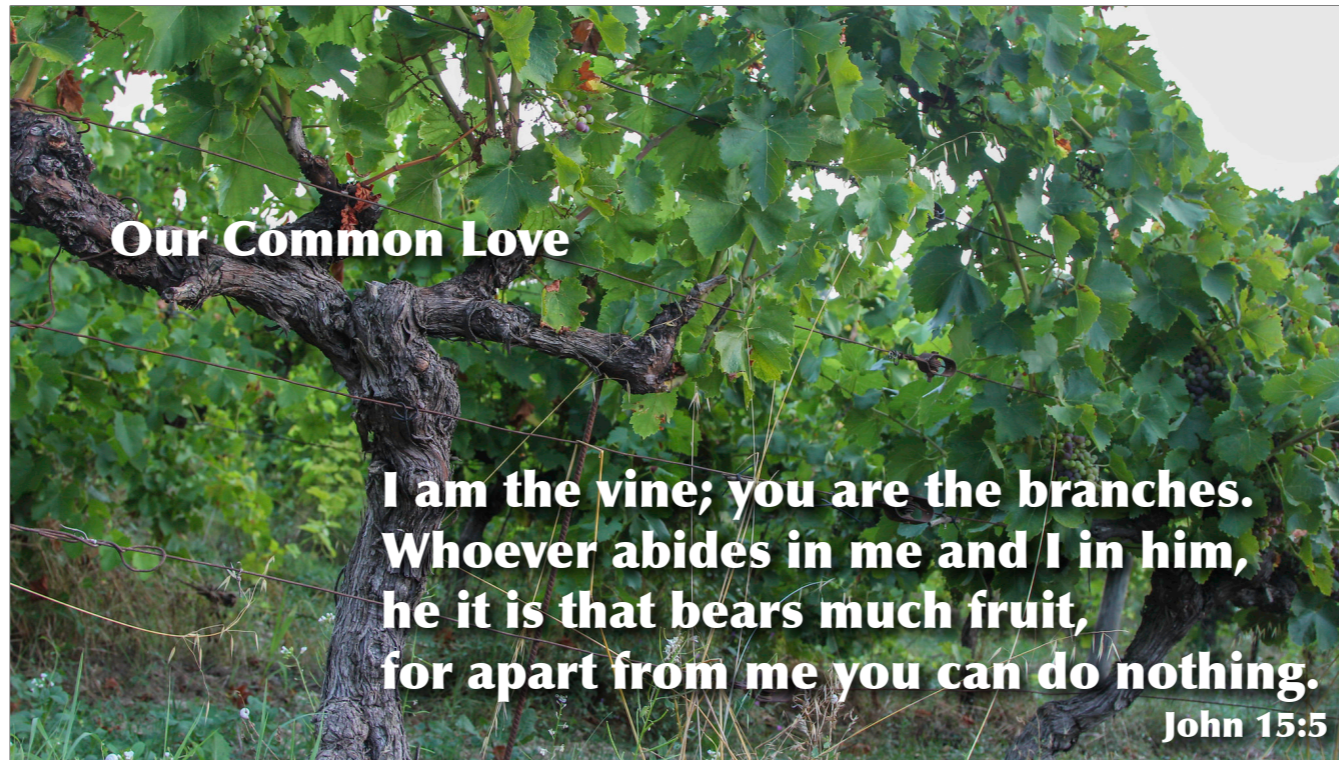
- Our Common Love



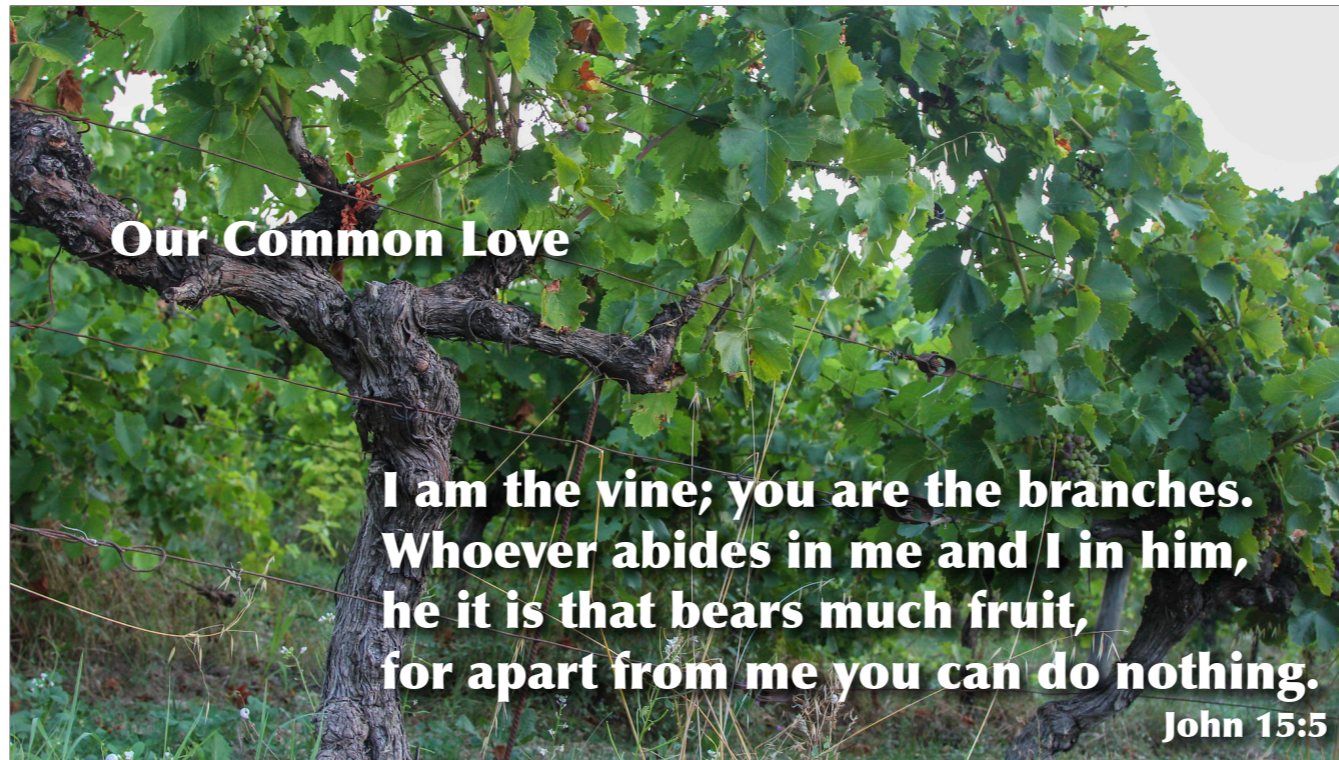
- Our relationship with one another is based in our relationship with Christ
 - 1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,
 - Love = agape - doing that which is best for another, without regard to one's self; benevolent, non-emotional, selfless (self full giving).
 - sincere
 - earnestly
 - pure heart (moral or single-minded?)



- Love One Another: 1 John 4.11
 - 1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
 - Ought
 - Thayer: 3784 1) to owe 1a) to owe money, be in debt for 1a1) that which is due, the debt; 2) metaph. the goodwill due
 - TDNT: “to owe someone something” This give rise to the idea of moral obligation. (746)
 - a moral necessity; that which is proper and befitting



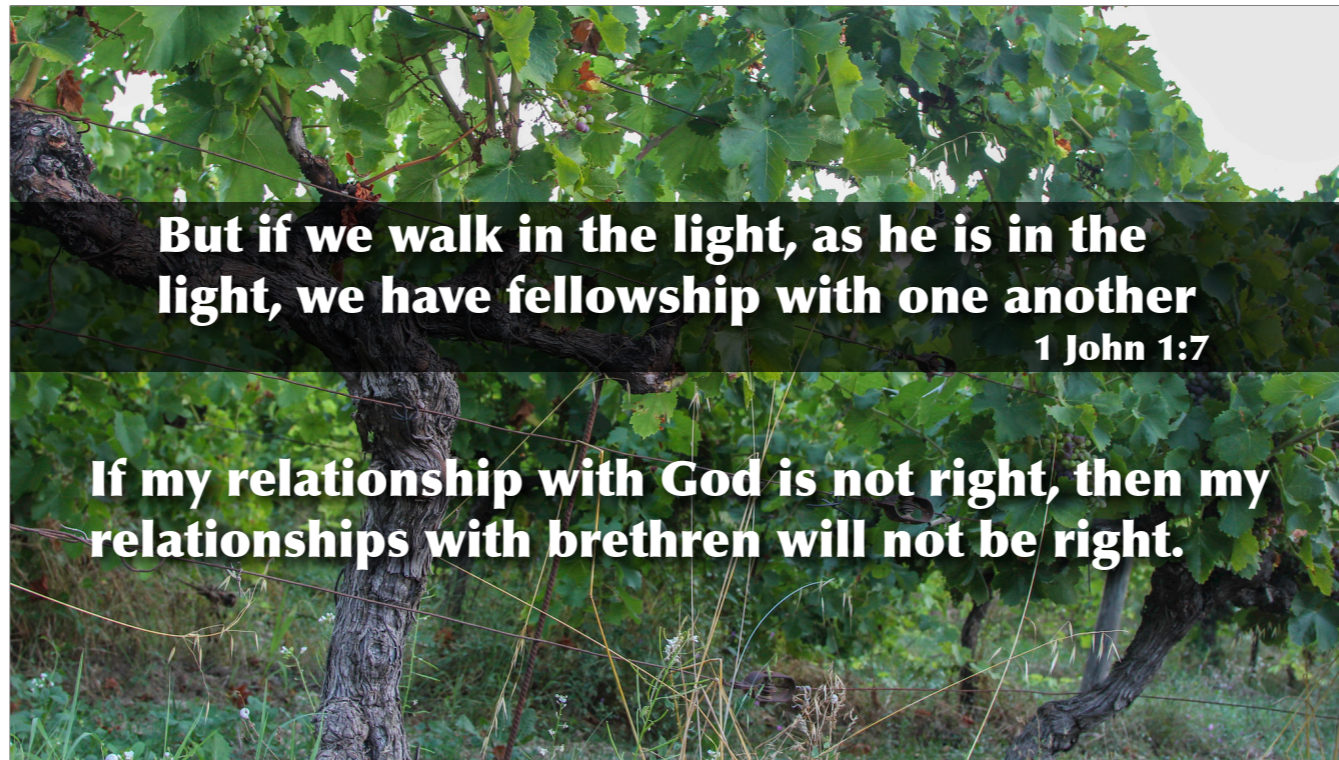
- Branches from One Vine
 - Our relationship is more than a ‘vertical’ and/or a ‘horizontal’ relationship:
 - John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
 - Our savior likens our relationship with him to a living organism
 - Not an organization
- A Vine
 - Growth, Living
 - Dependency
 - Connected



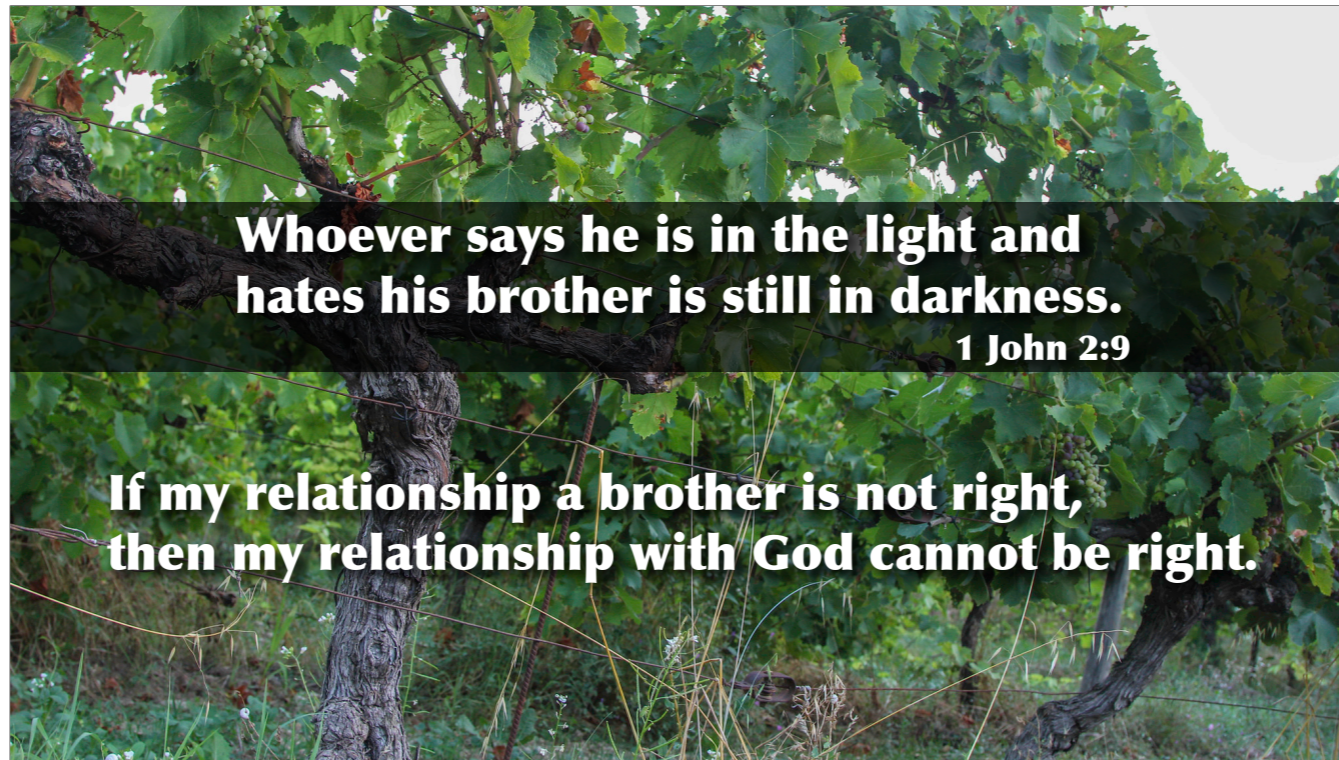
- Our relationship with one another
 - begins with God's love for us
 - depends on our relationship with Him
- Most of us would not know each other were it not for our relationship with Christ!



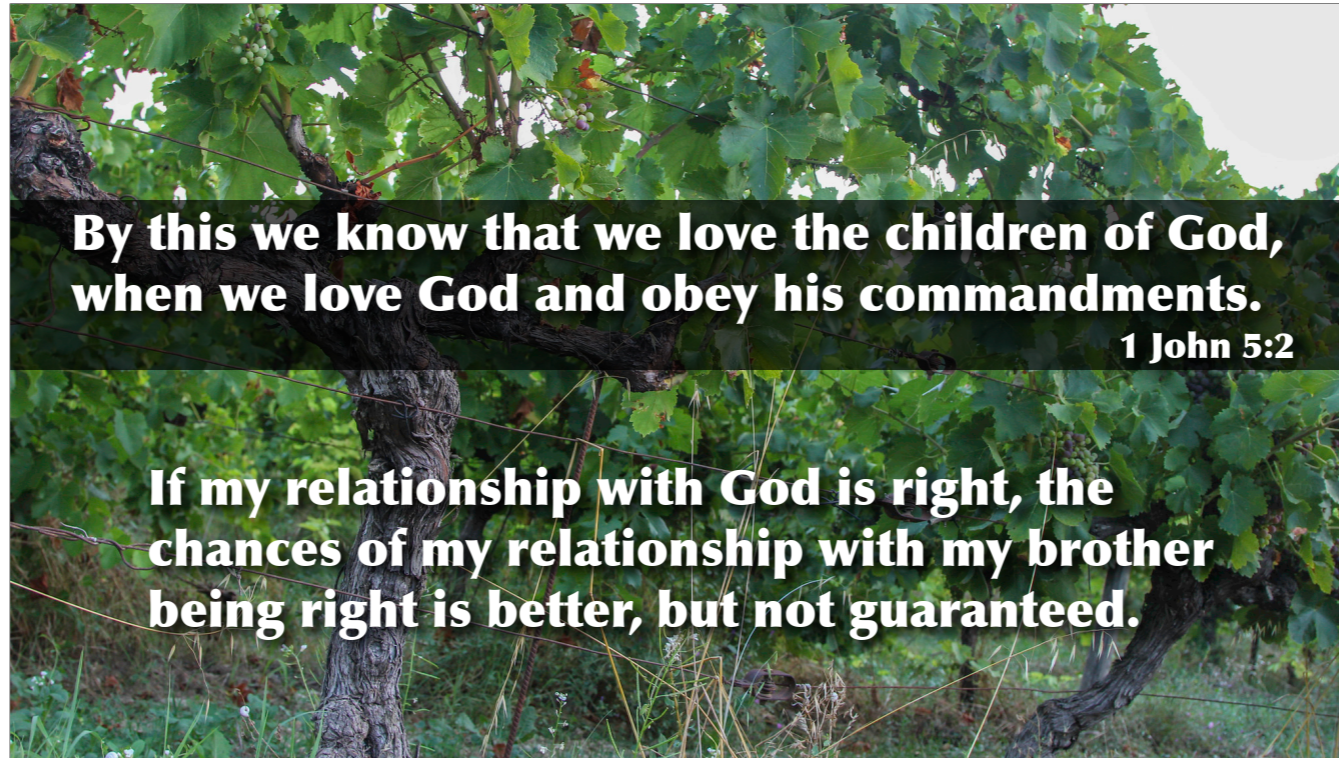
- Some Principles about Our Relationships
 - All relationships within the church are founded on my relationship with God



- If my relationship with God is not right, then neither will my relationships with Christians:
 - 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.



- If my relationship with any brother is not right, then my relationship with God cannot be right: 1 John 2.9-11
 - 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.
 - 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.



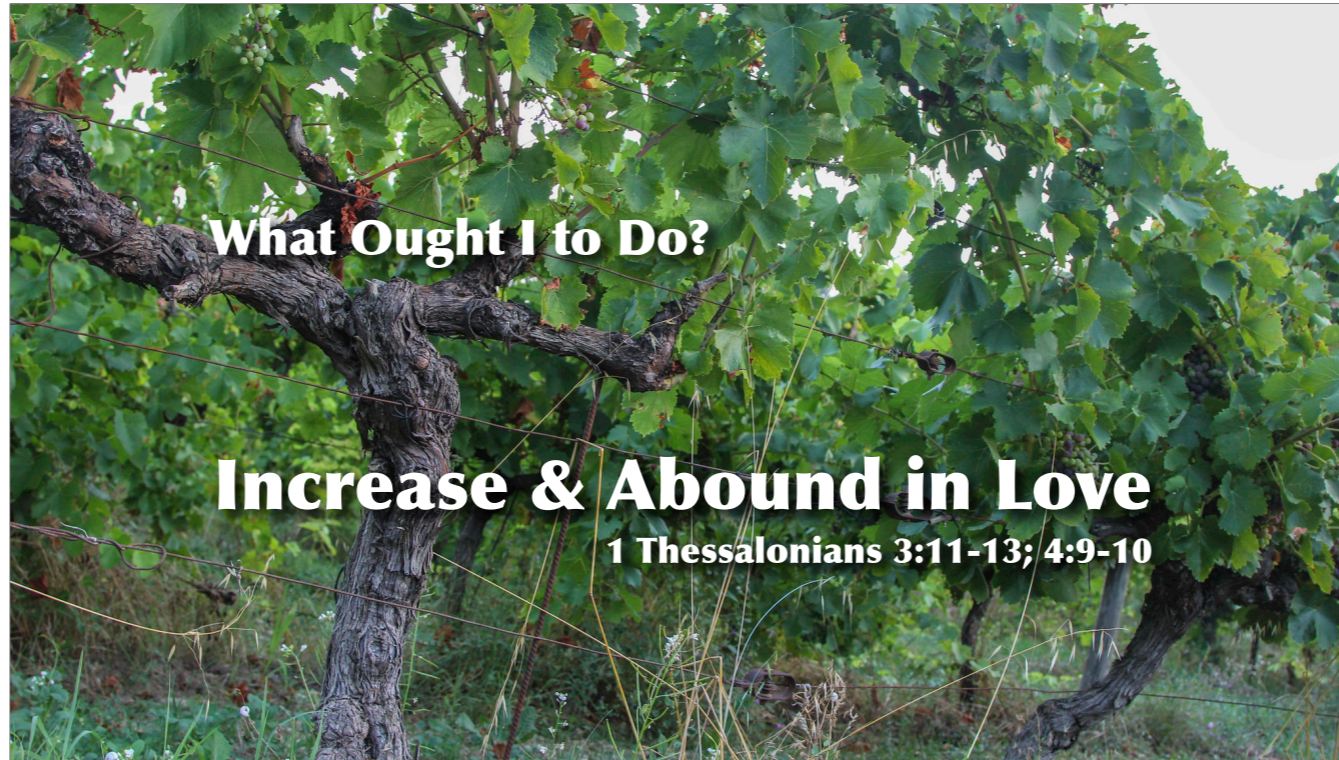
**By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and obey his commandments.**

1 John 5:2

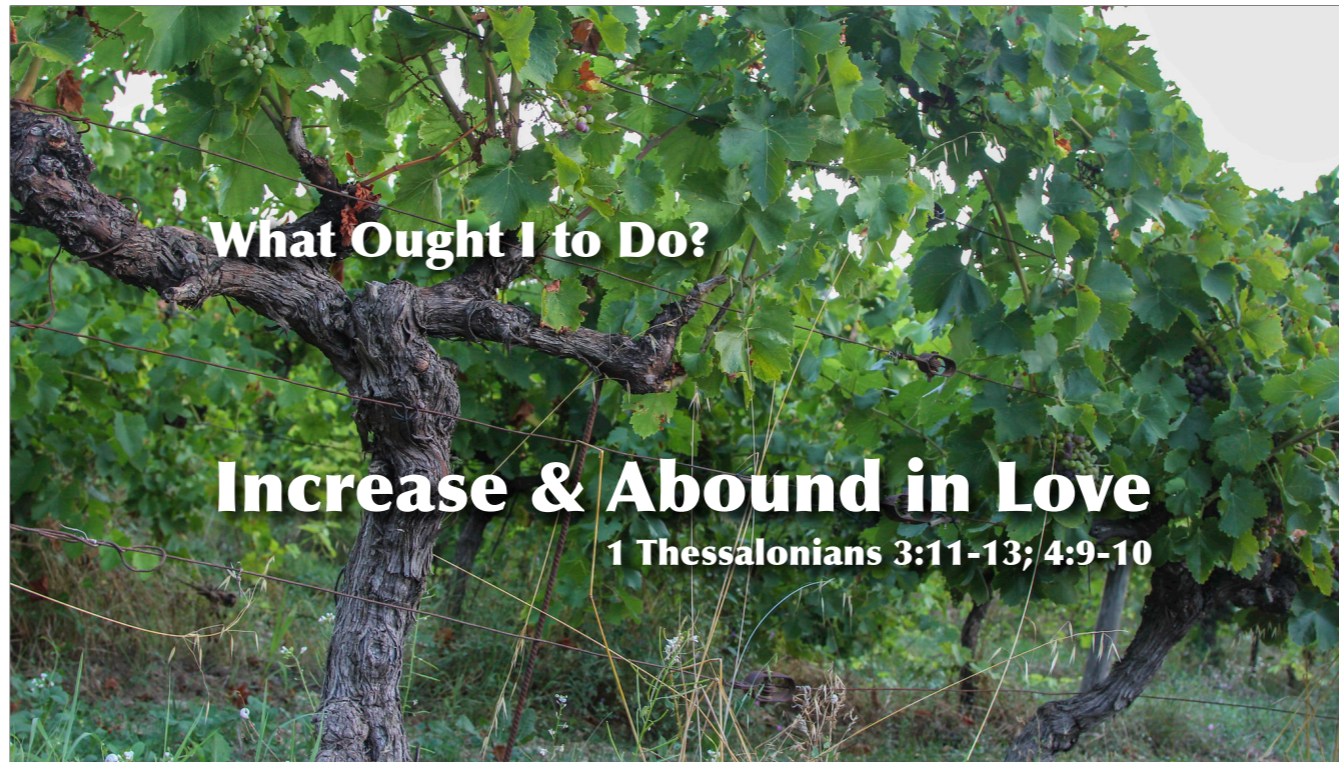
**If my relationship with God is right, the
chances of my relationship with my brother
being right is better, but not guaranteed.**

- If my relationship with God is right, the chances of my relationships with Christians being right is better, but not guaranteed:
 - 1 John 5.2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.





- Growing in love: 1 Thessalonians 3.12-1; 1 Thessalonians 4.9-10
- 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (ESV) 11 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, 12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.



- 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (ESV) 9 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,



- If relationships within the church are to improve, the I must first improve
 - Positive change - a positive attitude - trusting in God.
 - All of these are necessary first on my part
- When others observe my changes, it will encourage them to change also.
 - Such a relationship demands that we be open to one another.
 - Needing one another, admitting the need, and meaning it.
 - Serving one another and allowing others to serve us.



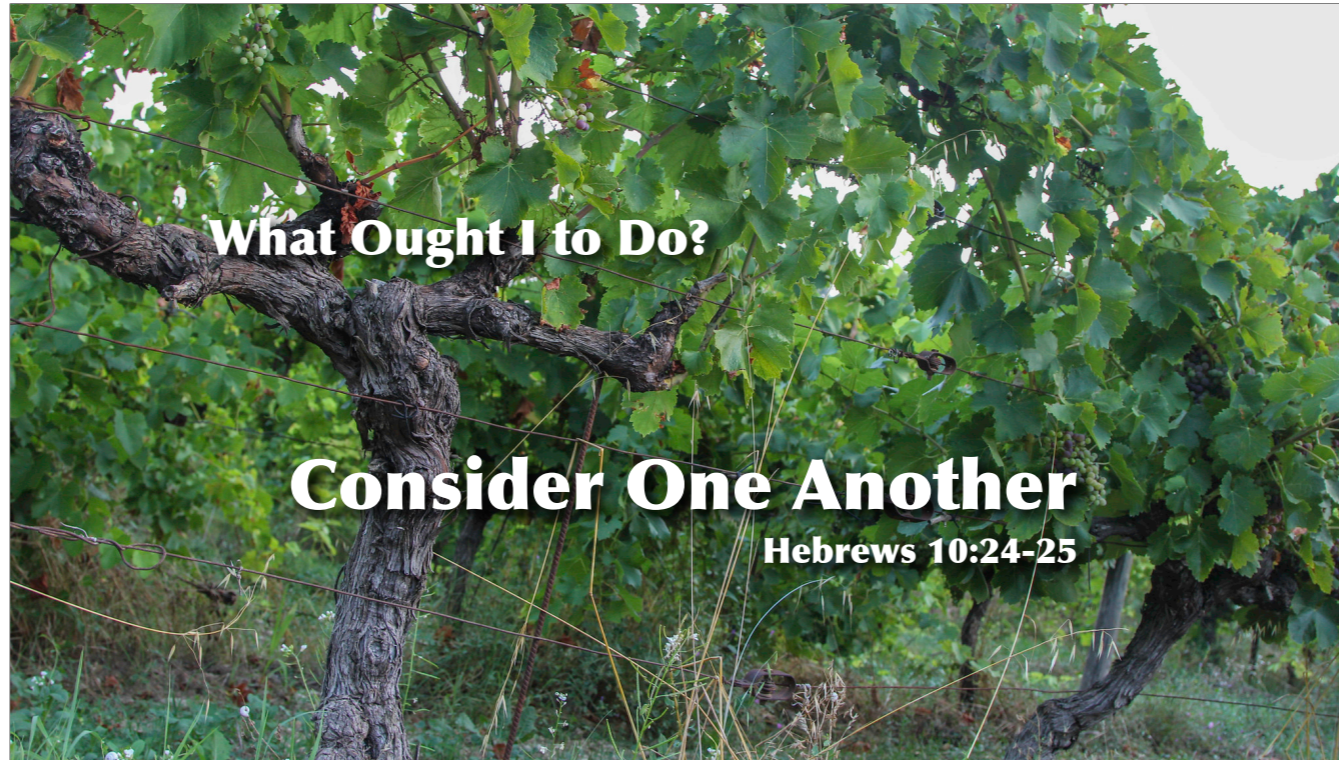
- Close relationships are not automatic
 - They are a direct result of taking time, energy, and cultivating the relationship.
 - A glib, “Hi, how are ya” must be replaced with genuine care and concern for each other.
 - Somehow we have picked up the erroneous idea that open relationships, true togetherness and real fellowship will just start happening.
 - We must decide to make sure we grow closer to one another; determining to make it happen not just letting it happen.
- And we must avoid our tendency toward individualism and self-reliance.



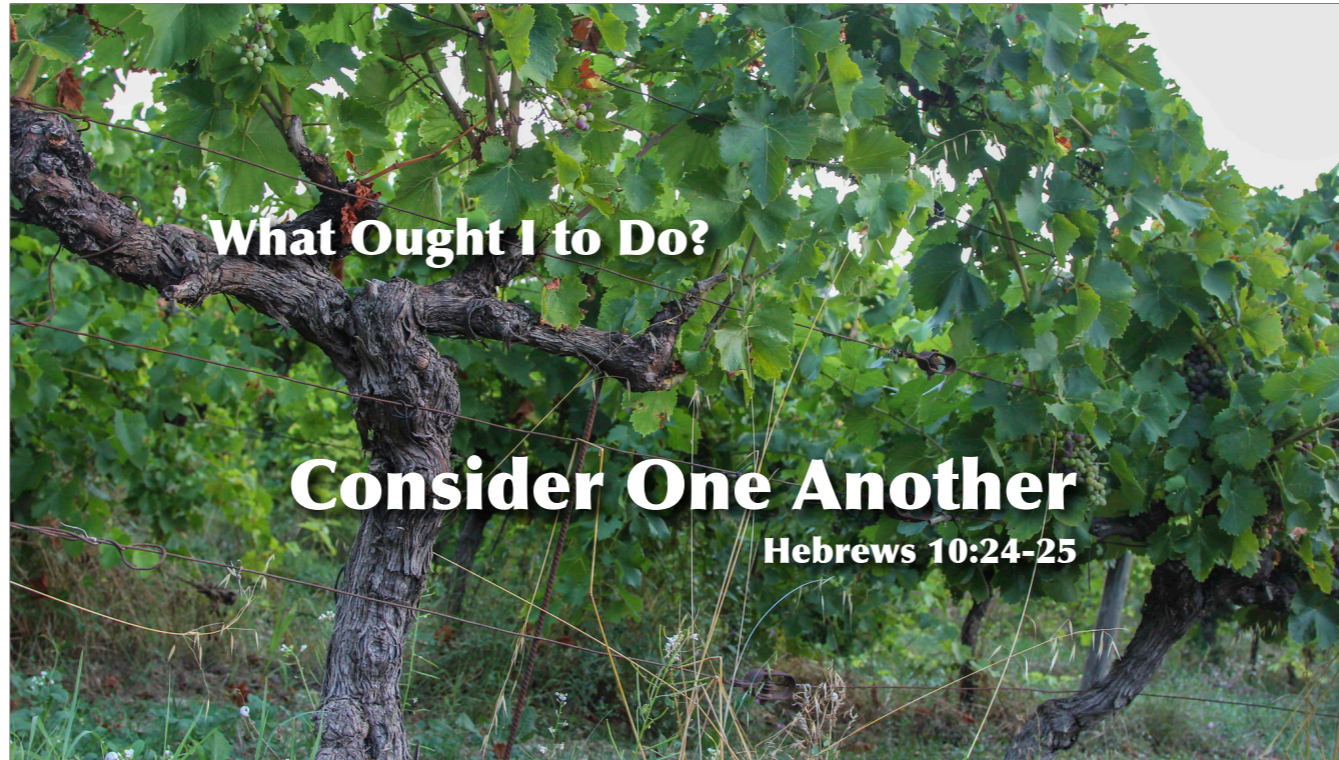
- Consider one another: Hebrews 10.24
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



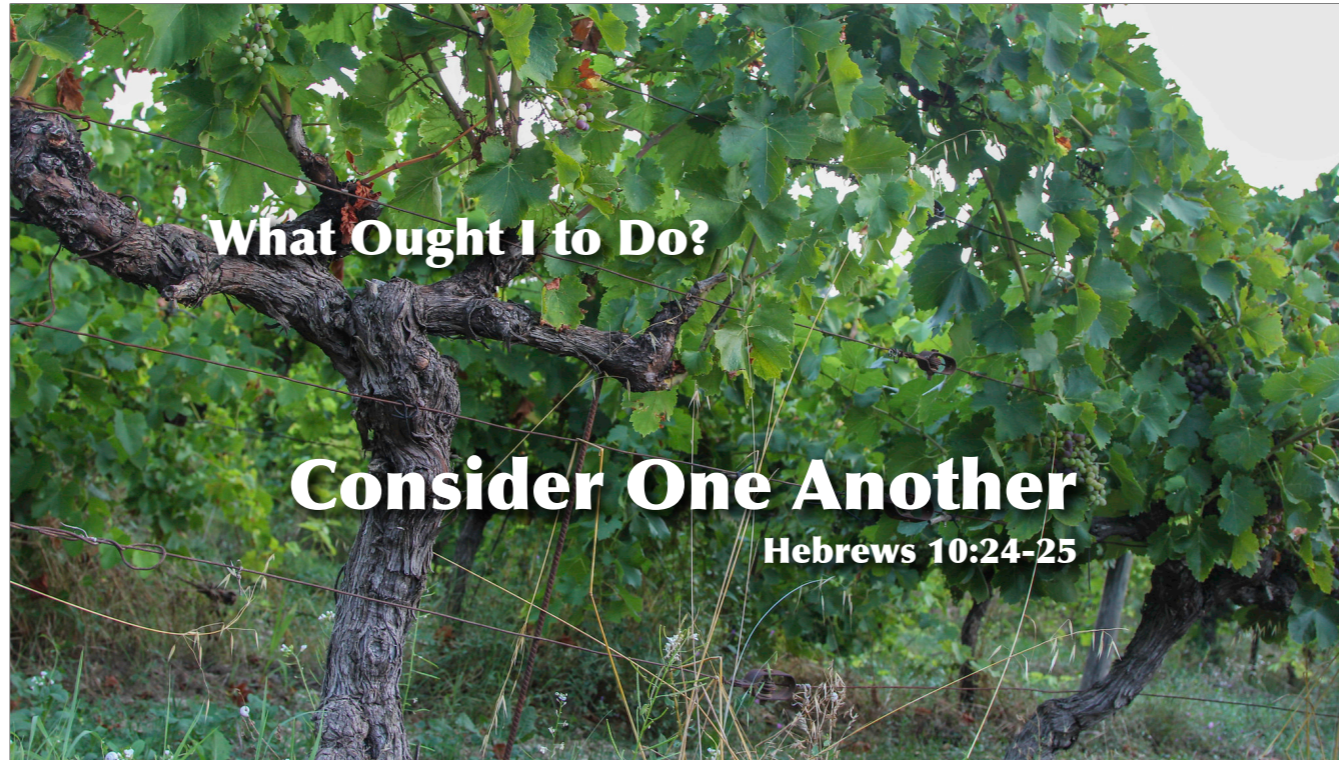
- consider
 - Thayer: to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon
 - Strong: observe fully: behold, consider, discover, perceive
 - Vine: lit. to learn thoroughly
 - Robertson: tense: keep on doing so
 - Vincent: denotes attentive, continuous care



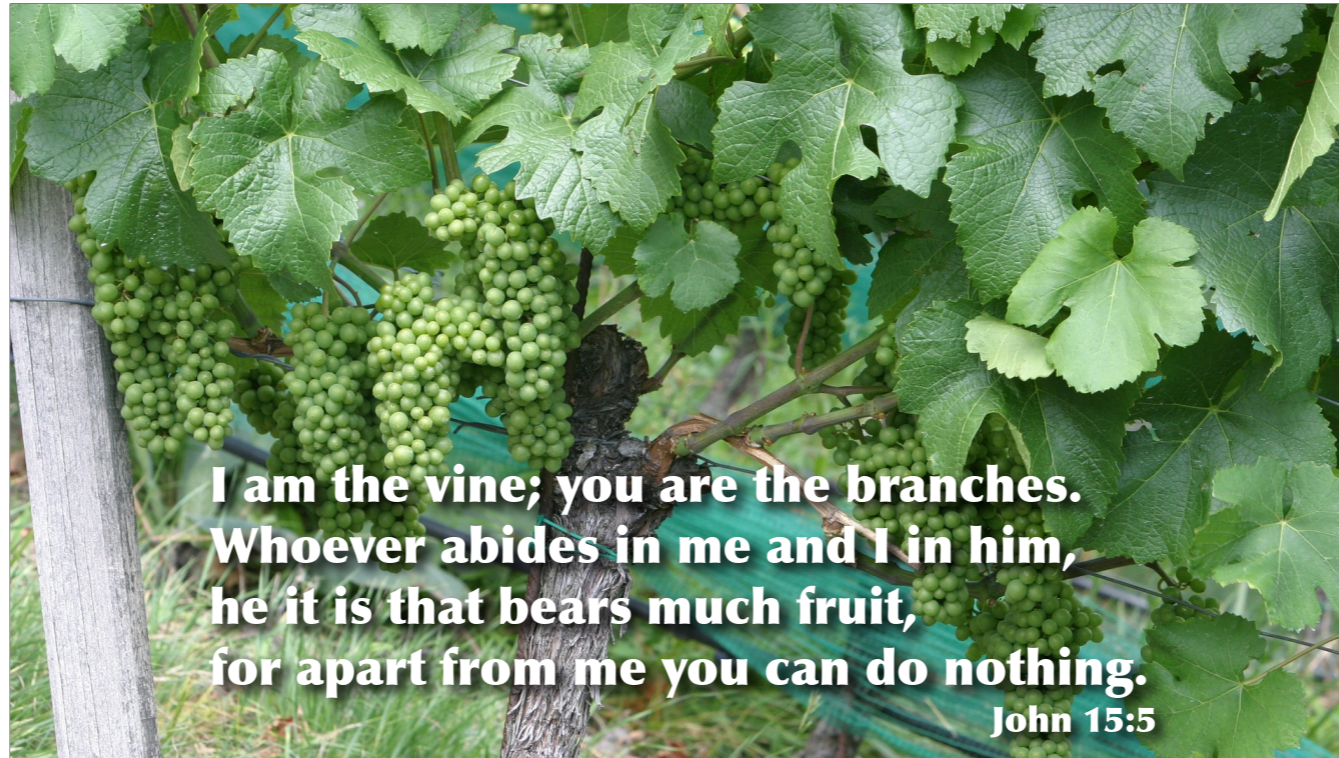
- stir up
 - Thayer: an inciting, incitement (to move to action, stir up, spur on, urge on)
- Requires time, patience, forbearance, humility on my part
- Why did John put so much emphasis on love?
 - Because we need to provoke each other to love.



- So often we emphasize the importance of assembling together to meet certain obligations of worship, and end up acting as if these “acts of worship” were the only reasons we meet together.



- Why do we meet three times a week? To stir up love!
 - If the only reason you're coming here is to fulfill these 'acts of worship' then you're failing to understand the importance of why we join together to do these things!
 - Our assemblies, all of them, are not just about worship, but about our relationship with God and with one another.
 - We meet together to help each other go to heaven, to be better Christians, to grow in love for one another.



**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.**
John 15:5

- John 15:5 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.
 - Bear much fruit?
 - Or doing nothing?

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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One Another

#01

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The Vine and The Branches

John 15:5

Synopsis: This lesson reminds us that because we are each branches in Christ, we ought to love each other. There is more to being a church than just worshiping together and we need to grow in our love and consider one another.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”