

Bay City Wesleyan Church
January 14, 2018

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Sunday Morning 01-14-2018
Jesus promised, "You will bear fruit, lots of fruit, lasting fruit."
John 15:1-17
<http://bible.com/events/343130>
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[Image]
Claiming the promise in 2018
https://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1514675144006_152x152.jpg

The Promise:
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Jesus promises to produce fruit through us. The fruit he produces answers the petitions of the Lord's Prayer that say, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

John 15:1-17 NIV
"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/jhn.15.1-17.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:
Unlike the branches of a grapevine, our connection to Jesus is voluntary.

What are the conditions for Jesus to bear fruit in and through us? How will his kingdom come and his will be done in our lives and in the lives of others?

1. STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS
2. PRAY IN JESUS'S NAME
3. OBEY JESUS'S COMMANDS
4. LOVE LIKE JESUS

Jesus is the vine. He decides when and how he will produce fruit in and through us. We must surrender our preferences, renounce any rights we think we can claim, and meet Jesus's conditions in humble submission.