

Title: Game Over - John 15 1-17

Read: John 15 1-17

¹⁻³ "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. ⁴"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. ⁵⁻⁸"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. ⁹⁻¹⁰"I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. ¹¹⁻¹⁵"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. ¹⁶"You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. ¹⁷"But remember the root command: Love one another.

Think:

Once again Jesus is talking to a bunch of people who grow their own crops and know about grapes; so he talks to them about fruit and how their lives are like growing fruit. If he was talking directly to us today, I am sure he would use different pictures to get his message across, but his message would be the same. Jesus might say something like, I am the games console and my Father is the games master. Those players who ignore the games master will lose lives; they won't complete the levels and will lose the game. Every player that listens to the games master will receive hints and tips from him. The games master will teach you, and whilst it may take several attempts to win a level, eventually you will win the game. When we read and pray to God we are listening to the Farmer, we are listening to the Games Master. Listening to God will show with the actions we take in our lives, and we will bear fruit, we will win levels. When we listen to God and remember the ultimate cheat in game playing, we will love one another and it will not be "game over" it will be "game on."

Pray:

Father please help me tackle my life like it is the ultimate game and play for you. Amen.

Action:

Do you have any friends who are not Christians? Why not have a games evening and invite a mixture of your Christian mates and those who don't yet know about Jesus. No need to preach to them just get to know them, and start praying for them in your own time. Bye.