

# Priorities and Pruning - Lesson

**Lesson summary:** There are things in our lives that are not sinful, but God wants us to eliminate them.

**JOHN 15:1-2 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>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."

**1. There are different steps in our growth in Christ.**

- a) Purging - getting rid of sin in your heart and life.
- b) Pruning – getting rid of things in your life that hinder you from bearing as much fruit as you could if they were eliminated.
  - These may be things that are not sin, and they might even be producing some fruit in your life, but God will want you to get rid of them.
- c) Pruning a tree or plant is cutting off live branches that may be producing a certain amount of fruit, but it is small.
  - This is necessary because there isn't enough energy to support all the branches and produce good fruit on all of them.
  - It is better to be doing fewer things and doing them with excellence than to be doing many things and not doing any with excellence.

**2. The main question should not be "Is this wrong, or is that wrong?"**

- a) God wants to have a loving relationship with you where you want to give things up for Him because you want more of His presence in your life.

**3. The main question should be "How do I get more of Christ?" and "What kind of person do I want to become?" and "How can I make the most out of my life?"**

- a) Bearing fruit for Christ is one of the most rewarding things in the world to do.
- b) It is an issue of priorities and what brings meaning to my life.

When we have wrong priorities, we remain miserable and unproductive for the kingdom of Christ and never live victoriously.

**4. The devil tries to play God to give you a false impression of God**

The devil wants to make us bitter towards God, make God out to be unkind and harsh, condemning and grieving and unappeasable with his personal agenda that disregards you. Threatening to leave or reject you if you don't do everything He says.

**5. God is in reality very unselfish, desiring what is best for you over His own desires.**

- a) God is gentle and kind, His desires are that you obey Him out of love, not out of force.

**6. God thinks of us partly as we think of our own body**

- a) He treats us like we treat our legs.
  - If they don't cooperate, or we are out of shape, we don't even consider cutting off our legs or threatening to.
  - We nourish them and take care of them.
  - It has to be very bad before we will even consider cutting off a leg.
- b) We ARE the body of Christ and He values us immensely, desiring our best health.

**What are some things that are not sin, but that take up time and energy that could be used in producing fruit in your life?**