

# GOD is PICKING ON ME

Pastor Epting's  
*Sermon Notes*  
Sunday, August 2, 2020

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. John 15:1-8 (KJV)*

- Do we really know what God wants from you
- Can you be fruitful in difficult times?
- When you are confused about God's direction, it can be a frustrating walk.
- The vineyard to produce, the branches have to respond to the attentions of the vinedresser.

## HE'S PICKING ON ME TO CHANGE MY POSITION

*No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Hebrews 12:11*

- Neither correction, wholesome restraint, domestic regulations, nor gymnastic discipline, are pleasant to them that are thus exercised; but it is by these means that obedient children, scholars, and great men are made. And it is by God's discipline that Christians are made. He who does not bear the yoke of Christ is good for nothing to others, and never gains rest to his own soul.

## We learn 3 important principles from this:

1. God is the source of the discipline
2. He disciplines all believers, and...
3. He acts out of love

**PASTOR STEVE M. EPTING, SR., SENIOR PASTOR  
HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

5900 West Iowa | Chicago, IL 60651 | 773-921-2243 | [www.THEHOPECITY.org](http://www.THEHOPECITY.org)



If we don't respond to discipline God will continue until we produce. It's up to you, I will only experience it as long as I hang on to my sin.

- New branches have a tendency to trail down and grow along the ground
- When branches grow along the ground, the leaves get coated in dust
- Branches are too valuable to cut off and throw away
- Vinedressers go through the vineyard with a bucket to wash them and lift them and wrap them around a trellis or tie them up.
- Pretty soon they begin thriving
- Dirt represents the sin in our life and God will correct our situation to make us productive

### **HE'S PICKING ON ME TO INCREASE MY PRODUCTION**

- Because grapes grow so vigorously, they get so dense that the S U N can't get to the right area,
- Sometimes we got so much stuff and unnecessary people in our lives that the S O N can't get through to our spirit.
- The vine's ability to produce growth increases each year, but without intensive pruning the plant weakens and its crop diminishes.
- Mature branches must be pruned hard to achieve maximum yields.

God is trying to remove anything or anyone that will **Hinder your Harvest!**

### **HE'S PICKING ON ME TO CHANGE MY PROSPERITY**

*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

**GOD***is*  
**PICKING**  
**ON** **ME**