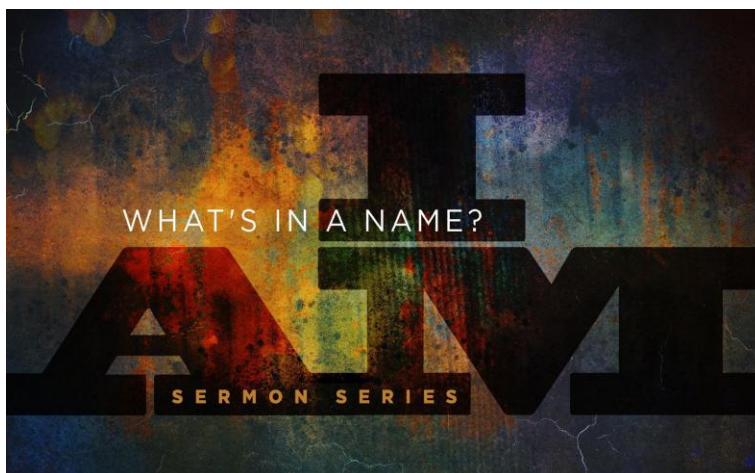




Series Introduction: We are in a 9-week journey through the gospel of John and into a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what that means for us. This series is a comprehensive look at the **"I AM"** (God is YHWH) statements of Christ in the New Testament. We're discovering how his declarations about his identity trace its roots back to the Old Testament. Together, these lessons offer a multi-faceted view of Jesus, the ways he impacts everyday life – our struggles, fears, questions, hopes, and dreams!

Message 8: **"I AM THE TRUE VINE"**

John 15:1-8

Lesson Introduction: Jesus and the disciples have now left the Upper Room (The Last Supper) and are walking through Jerusalem toward the Garden of Gethsemane. On the way, they either passed a vineyard or perhaps the Temple complex that had a large, sculpted vine on one of the outer walls. He pointed to it for another one of his "I AM (YHWH) teachings – another metaphorical truth that would help them see his mission, character, and divinity. The Jews were very familiar with the vines and vineyards and in the Old Testament Israel is portrayed as the Vineyard of God (ex: Psalm 80:8-15; Jeremiah 2:21; Isaiah 5:1-7). Jesus now makes the transition for them to see it is through Him – the Messiah, and not through Abraham, whereby Israel is the spiritual fulfillment of God's eternal promises. The "vine" image is clear, very familiar, and the implications of being connected to the vine very understandable to them.

1. _____ **IS THE VINE. 15:1a**
2. _____ **IS THE GARDENER. 15:1b-4**
3. _____ **ARE THE BRANCHES. 15:5**
4. **WE ARE TO** _____ **IN THE VINE. 15:6-7**
5. **RESULT:** _____ **AND** _____ **. 15:8**