

BARRIERS TO FRUITFULNESS / *John 15:1-2*

Barrier	Explanation	Implication
Lack of proper nourishment	Poor supply of water or nutrients will destroy the vine.	If Christ's life and love do not flow in us, we will be spiritually unproductive.
Disease	Insects and disease move from dead wood into healthy plants.	Ongoing sin and unresolved past issues will lead to spiritual ineffectiveness.
Immature branches	New branches require several years of pruning before they can produce.	We need time to grow. Growth may involve suffering.
Improper pruning	A wise gardener knows what to remove in order to bring about fruitfulness.	Our priorities and the focus of our energies must be guided by Christ and his Word, not our own wisdom and desires.
No Gardener	Vines need constant attention.	Resistance to God's guidance and pruning leads to unfruitfulness.
Separated from the Vine	Branches must be attached to a healthy root stock.	We must not think for a moment that we are capable of surviving apart from Jesus Christ. He is the giver and sustainer of life!