

GOSPEL PEARLS

In perfect harmony

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And Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and

withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (John 15: 1-8)

Whoever knows the Son of God, Jesus, and loves Him, also knows His Father Who sent Him, since their desires are in perfect harmony. Thus, whoever obeys the Son is loved and protected by the Father as well. Those who have faith in the Son of God are also aided by His intercession through the Father - today and at the hour of their earthly death. St. Catherine of Siena asked for God's assistance and her words still resonate with us. So who is the fool? It is one who after seeing himself so loved by God, cannot return God's love with the same fervor.