

John 15: Jesus' "Viability" Theology

The (Expanded) Paradigm of Viability

John 15.9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love,
just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business.
Instead, I have called you friends,
for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you
so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

❖ **paradigm:** example, pattern

especially: an outstandingly clear or typical example or archetype

archetype: the original pattern or model of which all things of the same type are representations or copies

❖ **viability:** the quality or state of being viable

(1) the ability to live, grow, and develop

(2) the ability to function adequately

(3) the ability to succeed or be sustained

❖ **paradigm:** *“I am the True Vine . . . you are the branches.”*

❖ **viability:** *“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”*

➔ **archetype:** *“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. **Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”*

➔ **representation:** *“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

❖ **The Love-Obedience Paradigm—**

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

❖ **Viability—**

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

❖ **The Relationship Paradigm—**

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

❖ **Viability—**

“You are my friends if you do what I command.”

❖ **The Partnership (or Trust) Paradigm—**

“You are my friends if you do what I command.”

❖ **Viability—**

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

❖ **The Grace Paradigm—**

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”

❖ **Viability—**

“Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”