

“The True Vine – Part Two”

- I. Believer’s Relationship to Jesus (Abide) – 15:1-11
 - A. The Picture (Vineyard)
 1. True Vine
 - a. Israel (Is. 5; Ps. 80:8-9; Jer. 2:21)
 - b. Jesus
 2. Branches (“Disciples”)
 - a. Non-fruit bearing (Judas)
 - b. Fruit bearing (the 11)
 3. Vinedresser (Father)
 - a. Takes away (cf. Jn. 15:6; Mt. 13:24ff, 49-50; 25:46; Rev. 20:10)
 - b. Prunes / cleans (cf. Jn. 13:1-11)
 - B. The Priority (Abide)
 1. Abide in Jesus (Jesus abide in you) – v. 4-6
 2. His Word abide in you – v. 7 (cf. Col. 3:16; Ps. 119:9, 11; Jn. 17:17)
 3. Abide in His love – v. 9 (cf. Eph. 3:14-21)
 - C. The Promise
 1. Fruit that is _____ – v. 5, 8
 2. Prayer that is _____ – v. 7
 3. Joy that is _____ – v. 11

So what?

1. Where do you see yourself in the picture?
2. Is Jesus truly the priority relationship in your daily schedule?
3. Are you seeing the promises of Jesus fulfilled in your life?

Challenge: Carve out at least an hour every day this week to be alone with Jesus. Just you, Jesus, your Bible, and maybe a hymnal or song book. Prioritize Jesus! Be fully at home in Jesus. Make Jesus fully at home in you.

Discussion Questions & Application:

1. What specific applications did you make in your life in response to last week's sermon (9/12/21 – The True Vine – Part One)? Was it hard? What helped you follow through and keep doing it?
2. What does it mean to “abide”? [Hint: think of the word abode] Why would the 11 disciples be tempted not to abide in Jesus in the coming days? Who had already made the decision not to abide in Jesus? Why? There are a lot of people who profess to believe in Jesus and appear to be following Him for a period of time (see Mt. 13 – Parable of the Soils), but at some point, they stop following Him. Have you ever been tempted to stop following Jesus? What are some reasons why a person might stop following Jesus? What reasons can you find in the text as to why we MUST continue following Jesus? What will happen to those who don't ultimately abide in Him?
3. Some choose to not abide in Jesus at all (unbelievers). But the word abide does not only apply to the moment of salvation (justification). Abiding in Jesus is key to sanctification (growth in holiness). How does abiding in Jesus impact our ability to bear fruit? What kind of fruit is evident if we are truly abiding in Jesus? What did Jesus mean when He said that apart from Him we could do “nothing”? Do you believe that? What is the evidence of that in your life and ministry?
4. To abide in Jesus, we to know Him as He truly is (eternal, God in human flesh, born of a virgin, sinless life, sacrificial substitutionary death, bodily resurrection & ascension, sympathetic High Priest / Intercessor / Advocate, seated at God's right hand, omniscient / omnipotent / omnipresent, Judge of the living and the dead, gracious / loving / kind / merciful/ compassionate / just / righteous anger, Lord / King / Sovereign Ruler, Friend...). Do you know Him in all those areas and more? What verses come to mind for each of those descriptive terms?
5. Purchase (or read online) a good systematic theology and study Christology (the doctrine of Christ). Learn more about what the Bible says about Jesus from a comprehensive perspective (*Biblical Doctrine*, by MacArthur & Mayhue; *Systematic Theology*, by Grudem, *Reformed Systematic Theology, Vol. 2*, by Beeke & Smalley, etc.). Meditate on these profound insights and then worship Jesus for each of the attributes that are true of Him.
6. Is abiding in Jesus (intimacy with Him) an obvious priority in your life? If so, what specifically makes it obvious? If not, why not? How much time do you spend with Jesus each day? What are you specifically doing daily to abide in Jesus? What is coming in the way of you truly abiding in Jesus?
7. List all of the characteristics you can find that Jesus said would be true of a disciple that was abiding in Him? Are these true of you right now? God is desirous of bearing much fruit in your life. What is your part in that process (see Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:5-11).
8. Set aside MUCH TIME every day this week to be with Jesus. Say NO to other things so you can draw near to the Lord and He can draw near to you. Ask Him to prune you, cleanse you, fill you with His Spirit and truth, and bear much fruit in and through your life.
9. Call someone from your LIFE Group this week and ask them if they are abiding in the vine. [If you're not in a LIFE Group, please join one. Until then, call someone else you know.] Encourage them in their walk with Jesus, share practical ideas on how to have more intimate fellowship with the Lord, and then spend time praying together.
10. Memorize John 15:5. Recite it daily and remind yourself that you need Jesus for everything.