

July 28, 2024  
1John 3:19-24

Have you ever said, “welcome to my abode?”

A place I have curated to reflect my values that make me comfortable and designed to make you feel welcome, peaceful and valued.

In the mid-90’s I was looking for a job and interviewed with a candy company as a sales person, to replace a retiring employee, that supported fund raisers for school and civic programs.

The company flew me to Nashville for a day interview. In the interview, the question was asked of what did I think was most important to being a good salesman? My response was a safe and secure home – so that if I had a good day, I could rejoice, if I had a bad day, I could recharge and get ready for the next day. I did not get that job, they said they had no other candidates for the position, but it was definitely not me.

But I still believe the answer was strong and true. A solid abode.

Opening Prayer

Keep this in mind as we look at 1 John today

1 John 3: <sup>9</sup>This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup>If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup>and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.<sup>24</sup>The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

NASB 1995

<sup>23</sup> This is His commandment, **that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another**, just as He commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

I want to start today with the concept of abiding and work the text in reverse.

What does it mean to abide? Merriam Webster Dictionary  
: to bear patiently                   : to endure without yielding  
: to wait for                           : to accept without objection  
: to remain stable or fixed in a state  
: to continue in a place   : to conform to

**There is no such thing as instant abiding**

*Abide* has abided in the English language since before the 12th century, picking up along the way several meanings and [inflections](#) that are now rare or no longer in use. For instance, one of *abide*'s former meanings was "to stop." Today, *abide* often turns up in the phrase "can't abide" to say that someone cannot tolerate or accept something. The expression *abide by*, which means "to accept and be guided by (something)," is also common. Related terms include *abiding*, meaning "continuing for a long time" or "not changing" (as in "an abiding friendship"), *abidance* ("continuance" or "the act or process of doing what you have been asked or ordered to do"), and *abode* ("the place where someone lives").

<sup>24</sup> The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Keep God's commandments and Jesus abides in us and we abide in Him by the Holy Spirit

That is great news, the gospel, original design.

We should be excited about this, not shackled to and by the flesh. (Bill Young)

1 John 2 27:As for you, **the anointing which you received from Him abides in you**, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, <sup>[i]</sup>you abide in Him. <sup>28</sup>Now, **little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not <sup>[i]</sup>shrink away from Him in shame <sup>[k]</sup>at His coming.**

Assimilating into Jesus, not just being an observer, involves creating a place for His presence.

This is the difference between religion and relationship or spiritual and Godly. (last week)

In John's gospel Jesus says:

John 15:1-9 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.<sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you <sup>4</sup>**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit <sup>[c]</sup>of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.** <sup>5</sup>**I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.** <sup>6</sup>**If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.** <sup>7</sup>**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* <sup>[d]</sup>prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

When I think of abiding, there are connotations of purposeful slowness and relationship.

I wonder if the reason we don't use this much today is that our society doesn't value these

If we keep His commandments we abide in Him and conversely He in us.

This is a key to focus on, we are with Him, but even more importantly, He is with/in us.

This is His original design – to abide with us in relationship

It is also an act of our free will.

Keeping His commands are for our protection, to keep us from harm, not limiting our fun.

<sup>23</sup> This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

As we believe in Him, not passive but active believing, seeking His face and not just His hand.

We know that His arm is not too short, but we are looking to be in relationship with Him.

Knowing Him personally, not just wanting provision from God.

How often do we become passive believers as opposed to active believers

Being active believers goes back to the “one another's” and loving like Jesus

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

Loving with actions and deeds is the test of if we belong to Him.  
This comes naturally when we are with Him, so it is both faith and works blended

<sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

If the enemy condemns us – we look to God with faith not believing the lie  
If we have done the work of abiding in HIM – that pleases Him.  
This is how we know – we set our hearts at rest in His presence.  
Because we abide in Him, we have confidence.  
We receive from Him, what we want, because it is what He already wants for us  
(Permeate)

In being permeated we produce grapes as we are abiding in the vine.  
But sometimes we want to be apples.  
This brings about striving.

Strive. to devote serious effort or energy : to struggle in opposition

So if we abide in Him, we are becoming like Him  
Abiding is producing the fruit of the vine  
Striving is trying to produce apples from a vine.

Let's go back to the opening story.  
How have you curated your spiritual house to accommodate the Lord and others  
Is your spiritual being a place of peace, rest, margin and contentment.  
Abiding brings contentment.

From Steve Brown

When we learn to abide there are 5 gifts that come as a result.

**The first gift is growth in Christ.**

John 15:2 says, "Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." When Jesus talks about fruit, he's talking about our becoming more like him. God promises to transform you from your own image into the image of Christ. That's fruit.

**The second gift is cleanness.**

15:3 says, "You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you."

Being clean is a true gift, leaving guilt and shame behind and walking in confidence

**The third gift is productivity.**

John 15:4–5 indicates that the third grace gift that comes from abiding in Christ is productivity.

If we remain in Him, produce fruit, if not bear no fruit.

**The fourth gift is security.**

Jesus makes this point negatively in John 15:6 when he says, "If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."

**The fifth gift is prayer power.**

Ask what you will and it will be done for you.

Because He is already in that “space” permeating

George Buttrick, Harvard professor and pastor of Harvard Memorial Church, once told his seminar students:

There are some things you ought not to unload on a congregation for a while.

There are some things you can't tell people until you've been with them a year. And there are other things you can't say to them until you've been with them five years.

Gentlemen, there are some things you can't say to a congregation until you've been with them ten years, and they know that you love them.

It's the same way with Christ. You have to be with him a while before he can say some things to you. That's why abiding in Christ is so important. The longer you know him, the more you learn from him.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What have I done or what should I do to create space for God to abide with me?

2. The second gift is cleanness and the fifth is power in prayer.

Satan is after our authority (living in sin) to make us ineffective in prayer

If we are clean – we have authority in prayer without accusation – Discuss this