

Discipleship: The Dance of Change

ALC - Sunday, March 17, 2024

The Big Idea:

Discipleship requires a lifestyle change from existing to abiding in Christ.

John 15:1-10 ESV

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** 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. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** 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. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Slide:

Picture of a healthy, fruit-filled grape vine

Slide:

There are two types of branches:

- 1) one that does not bear fruit
- 2) one that does bear fruit

Slide: (please show one line at a time)

Most of us are existing in Christ, not abiding.

Existing: verb (Webster online)

To live at an inferior level or under adverse circumstances

Abide: verb (Webster online)

To endure without yielding; to wait for

To remain stable or fixed in a state

Strong's: to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy)

Slide: (please show one at a time)

Jesus lays out 5 conditions for abiding in verses 4-7

I) Abiding is **reciprocal** - verse 4

II) Abiding is **required** to bear fruit - verse 4

III) Abiding is **reproduces** exponentially - (verse 5)

IV) Not abiding has **repercussions:**

- Thrown away as a branch
- withered
- Men gather them
- thrown into the fire
- burned

V) Abiding has **rewards** - verses 7 & 8

You can ask what you will
And it shall be done unto you
The Father is glorified
Be the disciples of Christ

Slide:

What needs to change to move from existing to abiding in Christ?

1. Mind
2. Heart

My way to His way

My thoughts to His thoughts

Discipleship requires obedience.

Slide: (please show one by one)

How do we change from existing to abiding?

1. Read, study and apply God's word to our hearts and minds
2. Confess ungodly and godly practices
3. Submit to pruning
4. Live a disciplined life
5. Walk in love