

“Abide in Christ” • John 15:1–17

Mt. Lassen Community Church • April 12, 2026

Intro • Describe where you live... mentally! What’s it like in your brain?

15:1 • Jesus is the True Vine—which means, there are also *false vines!*

Discuss • What are the false vines we too easily get attached to? How can we disconnect from these and reconnect with Christ?

15:2–3 • The Father is the Vinedresser (the Farmer). There are three types of branches He works with...

1 • (Vs 2) The branch that needs to be “lifted up” (the Greek phrase, “taken away”). This is the branch that is down in the dirt but can be restored so it can bear fruit again.

2 • (vs 6) The branch that is disconnected from the vine and is dead and lifeless is tossed in the fire. So—it is critical to stay attached to the True Vine!

3 • (Vs 2) The branch that is bearing fruit, but can bear *more fruit* with some careful pruning.

Discuss • God may remove something from our lives (even good things) to help us be more focused on the priorities that make us better and flourish even more. Do you have any examples?

Vs 3 • Jesus’ WORD “cleans” or “prunes” us (same Greek word). It washes us (Ephesians 5). It surgically cuts away deadness and brings life (Hebrews 4:12).

Discuss • Are you willing to receive God’s “pruning”—or do you resist? Why is it so hard to be pruned, even in love?

Vs 4a • “ABIDE” means _____

And we are to abide IN _____

Vs 4b–5 • “Apart from Me you can do nothing” _____

Discuss • This is a humbling truth! How can we grow a heart that is more dependent on God and less proud and independent?

Vs 7–8 • At the last supper we are given some keys to successful, fruitful prayer...

1 • Ask from the place of abiding with Him

2 • Ask based on His word abiding in us

3 • (14:14) Ask in His Name (according to His nature, character, and will)

Vs 9–12 • Abide in His love, by loving others _____

Vs 13–15 • Abide as His friends _____

Vs 16–17 • Chosen and appointed to bear fruit, as we abide in Him.

Discuss • Think of this from His disciples’ point of view! Why was being chosen to bear fruit such a powerful invitation for them?

BIG QUESTION • HOW THEN DO WE ABIDE IN CHRIST???

You might consider the spiritual disciplines. They point you in the right direction. They are keys to growth. *But abiding in Christ starts elsewhere!* → Consider David’s words in...

Psalm 16:7–8 | Psalm 73:23-25 | Psalm 91:1–2 | Psalm 139:7–10

Abiding in Christ starts with MINDFULNESS. Focus. Awareness of His presence. Living “moment by moment” with Him.

Paul says it this way: **Colossians 3:1–2**, “set your mind on things above” **1 Thess. 5:16-18**, “pray without ceasing”

Some have learned this as “practicing the presence of God” _____

And because it is a “practice”—when you fail, you can try it again: until it becomes natural. No shame—just turn your mind back to Him!