



“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Abiding Life”

John 15:4–8

Introduction:

Our Mission: Enjoying and Sharing the Abundant Life of Jesus

Our Preaching Series: “Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus”

Part One of the Series: “Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Abiding Life” (John 15:4-8)

John 15:1–3 – “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

I. The Nature of Abiding (John 15:4)

John 15:4 – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.” (“abide” Greek: *meno* = live, abide, remain, persevere)

Abiding Principle #1: I am abiding in Christ when I am in intimate fellowship with Him.

John 6:56 – “He who (continually) eats my flesh and (continually) drinks my blood abides in Me and I in him.”

Abiding in Christ involves getting as close to Him as possible, beginning with trusting in Him alone for our salvation and continuing with a growing intimate relationship as the years unfold. (cf. Galatians 2:20)

“Lord, I want to be more intimate with You!”

Abiding Principle #2: I am abiding in Christ when I am walking as Christ walked.

1 John 2:6 – “The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked”

Walking in love – Walking in Obedience

“No matter what I face I want to do what Jesus would do.”

Abiding Principle #3: Abiding in Christ is a choice.

John 15:4 – “Abide in me...” = a command: “Abide in Me and do it now.”

“Lord, I choose to abide in You.”

Abiding Principle #4: Abiding in Christ is reciprocal.

John 15:4 – “Abide in Me, and I in you.” James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Although we are in eternal partnership with Him, this side of heaven it can sometimes be a partnership at a distance.

“Lord, close the gap in this season of my life.”

“Abiding in Christ is choosing to continually walk in joyful intimacy with Him so that Christ’s life flows through me in fruitful living.”

II. The Result of Abiding (John 15:5–8)

John 15:5-6 – “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. 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. If you abide in Me, and My

words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

A fruitless Christian is a contradiction in terms.

What is fruit? The product of Christ’s life.

John 15:5 – “...for apart from Me you can do nothing.” Hosea 14:8 “From Me is thy fruit found...”

The goal of the Christian life is abiding; the result is fruit.

III. The Ten Results of Abiding Intimately in Christ

Result #1: I will see the fruit of good works in my life.

cf. Colossians 1:9–10 bearing “fruit in every good work.”

Abiding in Christ shows!

“Faith without works is dead...being by itself” (cf. James 2:14 ff.) No one is saved by works (Ephesians 2:8–9) but we who are saved certainly produce good works as evidence of our being saved (cf. Ephesians 2:10)

Result #2: I will see the fruit of repentance.

Matthew 3:8 – “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance...”

• admitting (*metanoeo*) • confessing (*homologeo*) • returning (*epistrepho*)

Result #3: I will see the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life. cf. Galatians 5:22–23

When we abide in Christ intimately, we become more like Christ and reproduce the Fruit of the Spirit...i.e., more Christlikeness.

“Lord, may I see more of You in my life.”

Result #4: I will see the fruit of evangelism.

cf. John 4:31–36 “gathering fruit for eternal life.” (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:15 “ the first-fruits)

Evangelism is a fruit of abiding, not the fruit of some unique evangelism method, program or campaign. As we seek to get in closer fellowship with the Lord, He will provide us the heart for the lost and the opportunities to reach them with the saving knowledge of Christ.

A Sidenote: John 15:6 – “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.” (cf. Matthew 13:30, 41, 49).

Result #5: I will see the fruit of praise.

cf. Hebrews 13:15 – “the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of the lips that give thanks to His name.”

True praise begins in the heart of the one genuinely and intimately abiding in Christ.

Result #6: I will see the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:11 – “All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” (NIV = “ a harvest of righteousness and peace...”

Result #7: I will see the fruit of giving. “this fruit of theirs” (Romans 15:28)

When we abide in the Vine, one of the results is a greater desire to contribute to the needs of the saints.

Result #8: I will see more answered prayer.

John 15:7 – “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (cf. James 5:16 “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”)

The impact of our prayer lives is directly related to the intensity of our abiding!

1 John 5:14–15 – “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

Result #9: I will see the kind of fruit that glorifies God.

John 15:8 – “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

“Fruit is any thought, attitude or action that God values.”

1. The glory of God was Jesus’ reason for being on earth (John 17:4).
2. The glory of God is our reason for being here on earth, as well (Matthew 5:16).

1 Peter 2:12 – “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation (i.e. when He comes again).”

Result #10: I will see the evidence that I am truly a disciple of Christ.

John 15:8 – “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

“Lord, am I really yours?”

John 15:2b, 8 – “...every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear MORE fruit.... By this is My Father glorified that you bear MUCH fruit...”

We begin with some fruit. As we abide in Christ it moves to more fruit until it results in much fruit.

Our Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, make me more than a convert. Make me a faithful disciple. I choose to continually walk in joyful intimacy with You so that Your life flows through me. Then I will bear much fruit for you. Then I will regularly see the power of prayer in my life. Then I will bring greater glory to you. Then I will know, without a doubt, that I am an effective and faithful disciple. In Your Precious Name, I ask this. Amen.”

NOTE: We’ll see you next time as our pastoral teaching team continues our series on the many different aspects of **“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus.”**

Discussion Questions and Action Items

1. What does “abiding in Christ” mean to you personally?
2. What will it take for you to grow deeper in your intimacy with Christ?
3. In what ways has God “pruned” you?
4. Review the Ten Results of Abiding in Christ. In which area are you bearing the most fruit? The least?
5. What did you get most out of this message?