



ABIDE Weekly Devotions: Week Eight

By Crystal Miller

“This is my command: love each other.” **John 15:17**

LOVE WILL NOT SPOIL

Hours before His death and ultimate display of love, Jesus tells His disciples everything they will need to know before He departs. Time and again during His public ministry Jesus emphasizes the importance of love, and how love will drive our actions to not only obey and imitate Him, but also to love others - even the unlovely. Galatians 5:22 lists the fruits that mark a believer's life, but names love first. In Matthew 22, Jesus makes it clear: if we were to boil down all Old Testament laws into two simple commandments it would be to love God and love others. Therefore, when we are commanded here in John 15:17 to love one another, He is speaking of an unselfish, sacrificial, genuine kind of love. It is a love that requires us to sacrifice for the sake of others, just as Jesus did.

The truth is, the world doesn't want to hear about how much Christian's love, until they see and experience the depth of that love. Love is the very foundation the world must encounter if they are to be drawn to Christ.

God chose us and draws us to Himself in loving-kindness, gives us spiritual eyes to see Him and in return, choose Him. He then purposefully and strategically plants us where we need to be at just the right time, where we can make the greatest impact for His glory and where our fruit can be on display.

Fruit is ANYTHING that brings God glory. Love will never go out of style, it will never be wasted, and it will never spoil. Love will endure and always points back to the cross. If there is any way we want to be remembered in this life, it is for loving well.

The more we abide and stay connected to Him, the more we will resemble Him. The more we abide in Him, the more our hearts align with His. The more we abide in Him, the more fruit we bear.

Let us pray Church, that our lives will become more fruitful for His kingdom. That others would be drawn to the love of Christ through the fruit He will produce in us as we *seek and abide in Him*.