

***Jesus is I AM!
I AM the True Vine
John 15:1-11***

Our Key Verses...

John 15:1 (ESV) — I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

John 15:5a (ESV) — I am the vine; you are the branches...

Jesus is the Vine...

The Father is the Vinedresser/Gardener...

Believers are the Branches...

Jesus concludes this section on Him being the True Vine with the following statement...

John 15:11 (ESV) — These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

ONE THING

Jesus wants me to EXPERIENCE and EXPRESS His JOY that is OUTRAGEOUS and CONTAGIOUS!

Here, Jesus says that as we follow His teaching here we will experience and express an undeniable joy!

1 Peter 1:8 (NLT) — You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

I want to live like this!!!

I want to experience and express an ...

- ***Inexpressible ...***
- ***Undeniable...***
- ***Uncontainable...***
- ***Unexplainable...***

JOY!!!!

I want to experience and express a JOY that is...

Outrageous and Contagious!!!

Don't you!?!

So, why don't we?...

TWO REASONS...

1st – Where we live...

We live in a JOY-STEALING culture!

If you're joyful about something, just wait the JOY-THIEVES will hunt you down and zap your joy right out of you...

Sadly, many "JOY-THIEVES" claim this as their spiritual obligation... their spiritual duty... their spiritual gift!

2nd – How we live...

Most of us simply don't know how to produce this kind of joy...

Jesus and His disciples had shared in the Passover meal where Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper.

He has told them not to be troubled in their hearts.

Then Chapter 14 ends with Jesus saying, "Rise, let us go from here."

They get up and follow Jesus as He departs for the Garden of Gethsemene.

As they are departing, they may have passed by the Temple.

Carved on the Temple is a huge VINE with leaves and grapes all covered with gold.

Isaiah 5:7a (ESV)

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting;

1. Our PRODUCTION – The FRUIT of God's KINGDOM here on EARTH

John 15:5 (ESV) — 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.

TWO KEY WORDS!

Abide – To cling to; to hold on to; to be attached to.

Fruit – That which is produced through the branch by the vine.

To bear fruit is to make available that which is produced by the vine.

Matthew 7:16a (ESV)

You will recognize them by their fruits.

So what does this mean for us?

➤ **To EXPERIENCE, ENJOY and EXPRESS the CHARACTER and POWER of God's KINGDOM here on earth!**

1st The CHARACTER of God's Kingdom...

John 15:9–11 (ESV) — As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

The FRUIT is the intended end produce from that which flows through an attached branch

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) — But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1 John 2:6 (ESV) — Whoever says he abides in him [Jesus] ought to walk in the same way in which he [Jesus] walked.

2nd The POWER of God's Kingdom...

John 15:7 (ESV) — If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Ask whatever you DESIRE and it will be done!

John clarifies Jesus' statement later in 1 John...

1 John 5:14–15 (ESV) — And this is the confidence that we have toward 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 that we have asked of him.

Jesus told us to PRAY BOLDLY!!!

Matthew 6:9–10 (ESV) — Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Paul tells us that we have this POWER, but we have it in clay pots...

... SO THE we will not attempt to steal His glory!!!

1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV) — For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

This POWER is manifest through the gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV) — To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

John 15:8 (ESV)

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Jesus says that the FRUIT we bear reveals whether or not we are true disciples.

Jesus wants me to experience and express His joy that is outrageous and contagious!

1. Our PRODUCTION - The FRUIT of God's KINGDOM here on EARTH

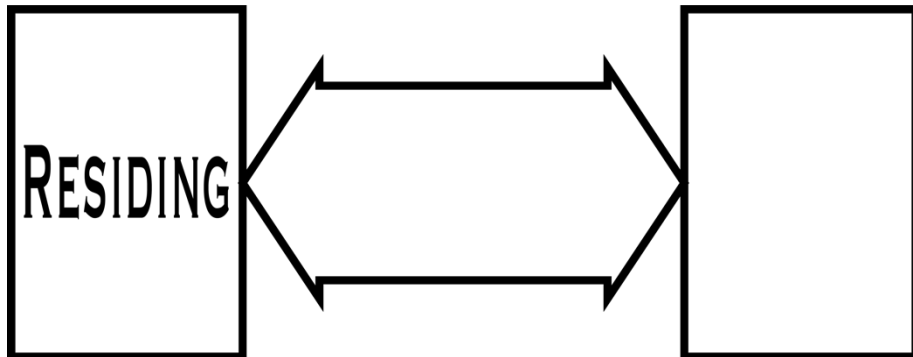
2. Our POSITION - To remain CONTINUALLY CONNECTED to the life of JESUS

John 15:4–11 (ESV) — 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

In these EIGHT verses, Jesus tells us to ABIDE TEN times!!!

→ Pic 1 – Residing

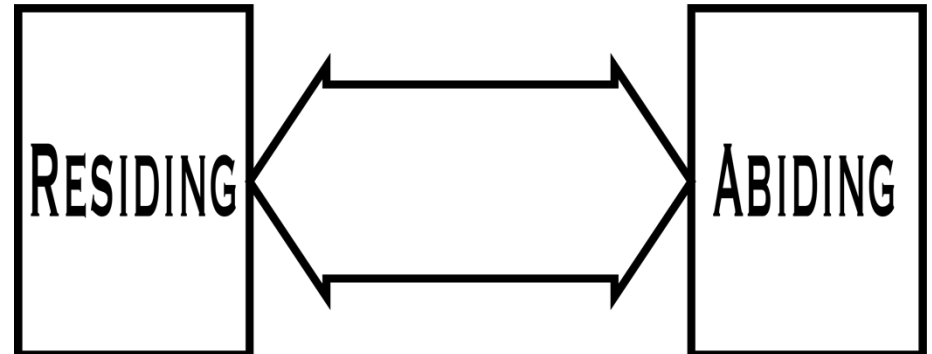


Residing...

John 15:3 (ESV) — Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Romans 8:9b (ESV) — ... Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

→ Pic 2 – Abiding



Abiding...

John 15:4–5 (ESV) — 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. 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.

In between these two is ... Deciding...

→ Pic 3 – Deciding



The difference between RESIDING and ABIDING is one word...

FRUITFULNESS!!!

John 15:2 (ESV) — 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.

John 15:6 (ESV) — 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.

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (ESV) — Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

2 Timothy 2:20–21 (ESV) — Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

When we begin ABIDING, the Father begins PRUNING...

John 15:2b (ESV) — ... and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

There are several STAGES OF PRUNING.

- **PINCHING** – *Removing the growing tip so that it will not grow too rapidly.*

James 1:2–4 (ESV) — Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- **TOPPING** – *when a foot or two of new growth is removed to prevent the loss of an entire shoot.*

- ***THINNING*** – removing some grape clusters which enables the rest of the branch to **BEAR MORE FRUIT** and **BETTER QUALITY** fruit.

Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)

...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- ***SUCKERING*** – allows **MORE NOURISHMENT** to the whole branch.

Hebrews 12:7 (ESV)

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Hebrews 12:11 (ESV)

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

So, HOW DO WE ABIDE?

➤ **DEPEND on God's POWER**

➤ **LISTEN to God's VOICE**

➤ **FOLLOW God's LEADING**

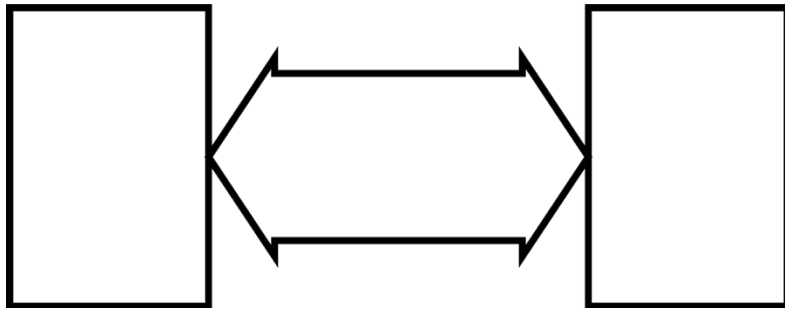
**Jesus is I AM!
I AM the True Vine
John 15:1-11**

Jesus wants me to _____ and _____ His
_____ that is _____ and _____!

1. Our _____ – The _____ of God’s
_____ here on _____

➤ To _____, _____ and _____ the
_____ and _____ of God’s _____
here on earth!

2. Our _____ - To remain _____
_____ to the life of _____



➤ _____ on God’s _____

➤ _____ to God’s _____

➤ _____ God’s _____