

Abide in Me (intro)

Upper Room Discourse Principles found in the New Testament A study for the College and Career Class of Gulf Coast Baptist Church 10-2-22 by Steve Thomas

Introduction

At commencement addresses students sometimes get a warning that things are about to change, for the better. There will be different rules that will apply. This is what Christ did in John 14-17. These are special chapters. We have seen already that Christ taught the disciples about love, joy, peace, and glorification. At the start of the fifteenth chapter Christ uses an analogy of the vine and branches. All the branch needs to do to gain the benefits of the vine is to “remain” attached. The believer must mentally abide - remain, dwell, continue. We have used the phrase - “remain at ease in”. The believer simply needs to mentally focus and be comfortable in his position In Christ. This takes an understanding of positional truth and a frequent reminder of its facts and benefits.

John 15:1- **Abide in Me** This abiding is something that is desirable, it is something that will bring us benefits.

- Bear fruit This makes us useful. It gives us purpose. Not withering, but fruitful This is a change.
- We are asked to abide in His love. Abiding is a state of the mind where we are at ease, we are comfortable. It is the result of our meditation on the quality of God’s love. We are experiencing it, we study it in God’s Word, we are directing it towards others. We see that it is different from the world’s love. We understand that it is not the love that is selfish, not the love that seeks to serve itself, but is sacrificial, giving that which is beneficial to others. It is not temporary, whimsical, loving one day and then “meh” the next. It is lasting. This is also a change needed.
- Abiding in Christ gives us the joy of Christ. It is a full joy. It is not happiness, it is like Christ’s love, not temporary, but eternal. Again, Christ makes a distinction for the disciples. A change is needed. Not just joy but “my joy” a difference. What is Christ talking about here?

The goal here is a transformation. We want to be changed, we don’t want to serve ourselves, but a greater more lasting purpose, we don’t want the world’s version of love, but God’s love, we don’t want to be happy, but we want joy. How does this transformation take place?

Rom 12:1-3 the transformation happens not by doing something, but by changing our thinking. Renewing of your mind is a noun not a verb. Rom 12:2 renovation Your mind has been renovated, use it. Don’t live in the ghetto part, live in the part that has been remade.

- Titus 3:5 The Holy Spirit does the renewing, the renovation.
- Eph 2:8-10 Not by works lest any man should boast, we are his workmanship
- Rom 3:23-28 freely, by grace. Not by deeds of the law.

Romans talks about being justified through faith... This means we cannot do what feels right, we cannot reason it out. We have to take God at His Word and trust that **He** will adjust us.

1Pe_5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Heb 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.