

That You May Have Life In His Name - John 15:1-17

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Overview / Context:

Jesus is preparing his disciples for life and ministry — knowing that his death was imminent, this is the night of his betrayal, Jesus is hours away from his arrest, hours away from his crucifixion

John 14:15–21 (ESV): Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

John 14:26 (ESV): 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Jesus says — The Helper - the Holy Spirit will be with you forever. He dwells with you and will be in you. The Holy Spirit, sent by the Father in the name of Jesus, will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance the words of Jesus.

The True Vine (Jesus) and Vinedresser (Father)

Son and Father

Vine and Branches

Pruning and Fruitfulness

Abiding and Fruitfulness

Abiding = living/dwelling in faithfulness

Living in faithfulness means living with the words of Jesus

The words of Jesus filter / frames our prayer life with who He is

Glorifying the Father = proving to be disciples of Jesus by bearing fruit

Love of the Father for the Son - Love of the Son to people - Abide in this

Keeping commandments = abiding in Christ's love

To abide - to bear fruit - to embrace pruning = for our fullness of joy

Love one another as I have loved you

John 15:1–18 (ESV): Am the True Vine

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 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. 3 Already you are clean because of the word (logos) that I have spoken to you. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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. 7 If you abide in me, and my words (rhēmata) abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 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. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Abiding in prayer

Obedience in love

Fullness of joy

Loving others like Jesus

Followers of Jesus bear fruit.

Followers of Jesus are pruned to bear more fruit.

Hebrews 12:5–7 (ESV): 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

7 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?

What does it mean to abide in Jesus? What does it look like in your life — where are the spaces of intentional, protected time to focus on God, His Word, and work in you?

4 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. 5 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.

Followers of Jesus bear fruit. If someone claims to have faith in Jesus — but there is no fruit, no commitment to faithfulness, no evidence of God's love and grace in their lives — then indeed they are deceived.

Faithfulness and fruitfulness glorify God — and proves / reveals / we are disciples of Jesus.

6 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. 7 If you abide in me, and my words (rhema) abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

The love of the Father is seen through the love of Jesus — Jesus says, abide in that... live in that ... dwell in that love... in keeping his commandments, we WILL abide in His love — because unless we abide in His love — we CANNOT keep his commandments. Abiding and obedience means fullness of joy.

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 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. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This commandment — to love one another as Jesus has loved you — looks like sacrificial love. Sacrificial love comes at a price. Sacrificial love is rarely convenient or easy... to love as Christ loves means a willingness and an intentional decision — I will lay my life down a million times in the big and small moments, in moments that others may never see or know about, for people that may be on the margins, for people and places in desperate need of love and care... and don't miss this: to love as Jesus loves means we are FRIENDS with Jesus.

John Wesley — reflecting on his conversion to Christ, says it was a conversion from that of a slave to that of a son. When we love as Jesus loves, we walk in friendship with Him.

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Jesus has chosen you too, to go and bear fruit — to ask the Father — glorify Yourself in me — and all of this — so that you will love one another.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

The Apostle John later reflects on these very words of Jesus when he writes this:

1 John 3:16–18 (ESV): 16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will help believers and at Pentecost, this promise is fulfilled — we as followers of Jesus are sealed with the Spirit, and through abiding in prayer, obedience in love, having fullness of joy as we love others like Jesus.

I don't need to convince anyone how broken the world is — or how broken people are — so much heartache in the church, in our lives, in our city, in the world. There is a real battle between the fallen flesh of people and the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16–24 (ESV): Keep in Step with the Spirit

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

Pruning and Fruitfulness (pruning = that we may be as intended)

Abiding and Fruitfulness (abiding = that we may live as intended)

Abiding = living/dwelling in faithfulness

Living in faithfulness means living with the words of Jesus

What does it look like in your life to abide with Jesus?

What is the outcome of you dwelling with Jesus?

How does obedience to Jesus play out in your life?

What does grace-enabled obedience look like in your life?

This commandment to love like Jesus is for YOUR fullness of joy — do you have it?

