



FUSION

CHURCH OF MADISON

Sermon Guide for Tribes

January 21, 2024

Sermon Series: The Life of a Jesus Follower
Sermon Title: The Abiding Life
Scripture: John 15:1-11

15 "I am the (A)true vine, and my Father is (B)the vinedresser. 2 (C)Every branch in me that does not bear fruit (D)he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, (E)that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already (F)you are clean (G)because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 (H)Abide (I)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; (J)you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that (K)bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me (L)he is thrown away like a branch and withers; (M)and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If (N)you abide in me, and my words abide in you, (O)ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 (P)By this my Father is glorified, that you (Q)bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 (R)As the Father has loved me, (S)so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 (T)If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as (U)I have kept (V)my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, (W)that my joy may be in you, and that (X)your joy may be full.

Points of Consideration:

The Goal of the Christian Life is NOT to Live for Christ but for Christ to Live Through You

Freedom From Religion (Biding)

- The essence of religion is one's attempt to bind oneself to God through performance
- The burden of binding is heavy and overwhelming
- The fruit of binding is increased activity for Christ
- The evidence of binding lifeless of one's own effort

Freedom For Relationship (Abiding)

- The essence of abiding is being connected to God through the life-giving properties of God
- The burden of abiding is light and freeing
- The fruit of abiding is increased activity by Christ
- The evidence of abiding is the love of God, for God, and each other

Discussion Questions:

What does the metaphor of Jesus being the vine and believers being the branches signify in John 15:1-11, and how does it relate to our relationship with Christ? BONUS: If the verb "takes away" in verse two were translated as "lift up," how might the interpretation be affected?

In verse 2, Jesus talks about pruning the branches. How can the concept of pruning be applied to our spiritual lives, and what might be the significance of this process in your relationship with God through Jesus?

The passage mentions the importance of abiding in Christ to bear much fruit. Discuss the tension and/or dichotomy between “being” and “doing.” How can we practically abide in Christ in our daily lives, and what are some tangible ways to experience the fruitfulness that comes from a close relationship with Him?
