



We Remain

JOHN 15

The Life We Actually Want

John 15:9-11; Phil. 4:12b-13 | June 28, 2026

*If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.*

— John 15:10

MAIN IDEA: The life we want is found in Jesus.

BIG QUESTION: Do you have complete joy?

The phrase, "If you keep my commands," is not the price of admission to God's love, but the natural overflow of living inside it. **Obedience does not produce the relationship. It is what the relationship produces.**

A CYCLE TO BREAK:

Distraction → Disobedience → Dissatisfaction

GOD'S RESPONSE TO THE CYCLE:

Pursuit.

The commands of God have never been about earning his favor. They have been the pathway into the relationship he has been pursuing with us all along.

Obedience is an outcome of love and the pathway to joy.

*"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy,
the only logical conclusion is that I was made for another world."*

— C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity" (p. 106)

NOTES: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Senior Adult Cookout & Potluck: July 1 at 11:00 AM

Vacation Bible School: July 6-10 at 6:00 PM

Worship Arts Team Kickoff: July 26 at 5:00 PM

Download our WCChurch app or scan the QR code for more info or to sign up!



STUDY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED:

What's one "5-year plan" you had that didn't turn out the way you expected? Looking back, how do you feel about how things actually turned out?

A DEEPER DIVE:

- » How does understanding that Jesus loves us with the same eternal love the Father has for Him change the way we view obedience to His commands?
- » In what ways have you experienced the progression of distraction leading to disobedience and ultimately to dissatisfaction in your own life?
- » What specific distractions are currently pulling you away from remaining connected to Jesus as the Vine, and how might these be destroying intimacy with God?
- » How can we distinguish between worldly satisfaction that leaves us empty and the complete joy that Jesus promises to those who remain in Him?
- » How does the truth that obedience flows from love rather than earning love challenge traditional religious thinking and transform our motivation for following Christ?
- » What does it mean practically to have your joy be complete or filled to the brim with Christ's joy in the midst of life's storms and disrupted plans?
- » How can believers who have material freedom learn from the worship and joy of the incarcerated men who have found grace in their disobedience?
- » In what ways does the Garden of Eden story reveal both the destructive nature of sin and the pursuing nature of God's love, and how does this pattern continue in your life today?
- » What would change in your daily priorities and decisions if you truly believed that remaining in Christ's love is the pathway to the life you actually want??

NEXT STEPS:

Take a Joy Inventory:

- » Make two lists: "Things I'm reaching for" and "Joy I have in Jesus"
- » Pray through both lists, surrendering your plans to God
- » Practice gratitude for 3 specific ways Jesus has brought you joy