

**Abide**  
**Abide and Bear Fruit**  
 John 15:1-8

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **Matthew 11:28-30**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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.” **John 15:1-8**

**Series Main Idea:** The Key to a Truly Fruitful Life is Abiding with Jesus Everyday

**Main Idea:** Abiding in the true vine produces the very best fruit!

**I. Distance from the vine produces bad fruit.**

a) Deeds of the flesh

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.” **Galatians 5:19-21a**

b) Self righteousness

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” **Matthew 23: 27-28**

c) Knowledge that puffs up

“This ‘knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up” **1 Corinthians 8:1b**

d) Exhaustion from relying on our own strength

“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.” **John 15:5**

**So where do we go from here?**

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?” **2 Corinthians 13:5a**

**The fruit we bear shows our proximity to the vine:**

**Are you experiencing true intimacy with Christ? Be with Jesus!**

**II. Abiding in the vine produces good fruit.**

a) Good Fruit Glorifies God: We reflect His character and nature -  
 The Fruit of the Spirit

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

**Galatians 5:22-23**

“‘The fruit of the Spirit’...is the kind of Christian character that glorifies God and makes Christ real to others.” - **Warren Wiersbe**

b) Good Fruit Multiplies: Making Disciples

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20**

c) Good Fruit Represents Jesus - Christ-likeness

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...” **Romans 8:29a**

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” **Matthew 16:24**

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” **Galatians 2:20**

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. *And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*” **Acts 4:13**

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**Sources and Further Reading Opportunities**

- *Sources and Further Reading Opportunities*
- *The Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)*
- *ESV Study Bible – Crossway (2008)*
- *The Bible Knowledge Commentary – Walvoord & Zuck (1983)*
- *Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible – Matthew Henry (1981)*
- *The Weight of Glory - C. S. Lewis (1949)*
- *John 12-21 - G. L. Borchert (2002)*
- *Chasing Vines - Beth Moore (2020)*