



FIRST BAPTIST
— CHURCH —
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 32: Abide in My Love

John 15:9–11 *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

We began this segment in John 15 with the vine and the branches, and we close it in the same chapter, where Jesus reveals the deepest picture of what abiding means. It is not merely to remain connected to Him for the sake of producing fruit. It is to make our home in something stronger and more sure than anything else on earth: “Abide in my love.”

Notice the comparison Jesus makes: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.” The love with which Jesus loves us is the same love with which the Father has eternally loved the Son. This is an infinite, unbreakable, everlasting love. Let that sink in one more time: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.” Then His command is simply to stay there. The Greek word is *meno* again — to remain, to dwell. We are invited to build our whole spiritual lives inside the love of Christ, to live there as our permanent home, never needing to stray wondering if we are truly loved.

Jesus then connects abiding, obedience, and joy in a way that connects our whole journey together. “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love.” This is not a threat that His love is conditional; it is the description of how we experience and remain settled within it. Just as Jesus kept His Father's commandments and remained in His Father's love, so our loving obedience keeps us consciously at home in His love. The purpose and goal of it all is “that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” The Greek word is *pleroo* — filled up to the brim, complete, lacking nothing. R.C. Sproul often pressed that God does not merely accommodate our joy but commands and delights in it — that the highest end of the Christian life is to find our deepest satisfaction in God Himself.

So here is the beautiful conclusion of the abiding life: it ends in joy; full, overflowing, Christ's own joy taking up residence in our hearts. This is what abiding obedience is for. Not a stale ledger of rules, but the pathway that keeps us at home in the love of Christ, where joy runs full.

And this carries us into the final stretch of our journey. We have feared the Lord, walked faithfully, waited expectantly, and abided in His presence. Tomorrow we come to the last letter — R, Reverence — where all of this bows before the holy God in humility, and then flows outward into how we treat everyone around us. The one who has abided in Christ's love is finally ready to live it out toward others.

TAKE AWAY

You're invited to build your whole life inside the love of Christ. Stay there today through loving obedience — and let His joy fill you to the brim.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to help you make your home in His love today, keeping His commands not as a burden but as the path to full and lasting joy.