

ABIDING IN CHRIST

John 15:1-17



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Our Only Hope Of Moving Forward In Life Is To
Establish And Maintain Intimacy With God.

Humanity Was Created For Intimacy With God –
Genesis 2 & 3



9

“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. 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.

John 15:1–17



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“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

John 15:1–17



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DEPENDENT

Know The Connection

- The Trinity in unison
 - God The Father – Vinedresser
 - God The Son – The True Vine
 - God The Spirit – The Helper
- Humanity are the branches
 - Israel the original vine
 - Yielded wild grapes – Isaiah 5:1-3
 - Demonstration of God’s redemption
 - No longer genealogical connection needed
 - Believers in Christ connection to the True Vine



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DEPENDENT

Know The Connection

Know The Essential Need

- Two types of branches
 - Non-producer
 - Producer
- Disconnection from the true vine
- Connection to the true vine
- Two lives with two destinations



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<p>DEPENDENT</p>	<p>Know The Connection Know The Essential Need Know The Care</p>	<p>James 1:2-4</p>	<p>Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Vine-dresser tends to the branches ▪ The Vine-dresser knows the branches ▪ Pruning is necessary 	<p>Romans 5:1-5</p>	<p>Matthew 5:10-12</p>	<p>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p>
<p>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.</p>	<p>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”</p>		

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<p>DEPENDENT</p>	<p>Know The Connection Know The Essential Need Know The Care</p>	<p>James 2:18-20</p>	<p>But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?</p>
<p>Know The Source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abiding in Christ = much fruit ▪ No fruit can be produced without Christ 	<p>Philippians 3:2</p>	<p>Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.</p>
<p>Matthew 7:15-20</p>	<p>“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”</p>	<p>2 Corinthians 11:12-15</p>	<p>And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.</p>

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DEPENDENT

Know The Connection
 Know The Essential Need
 Know The Care
 Know The Source
 Know How To Ask

- Seek Christ first
- No without selfish ambitions
- Seek to glorify God

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

James 4:3–4

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Matthew 7:7–8

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”



16

ARE YOU A FRUIT BEARING BRANCH?



17

DEMONSTRATION

Commandment To Follow

- Love as Christ loves us
 - Demonstration of compassion through ministry
 - Demonstration of loving enemy
 - Demonstration through the new covenant
- Friend with Jesus
 - No longer master/ servant
 - Knowing Jesus personally

Ephesians 5:1–2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Romans 5:6–8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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John 10:11–18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”



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DEMONSTRATION

Commandment To Follow
Chosen And Appointed

- We are chosen...
- We will not choose
- We are to bear fruit



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DEMONSTRATION

Commandment To Follow
Chosen And Appointed
Capable Of Abiding

- Abiding = intimacy
- Abiding = obedience
- Abiding = sanctification

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



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ARE YOU LOVING OTHERS BECAUSE YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED THE LOVE OF GOD?



22

DESTRUCTION

Not Connected

- Not bearing fruit – disciple making
- No reflection of Christ – reflection of the world
- Attempting to do be like Christ without Christ

Matthew 7:21–23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Matthew 3:10

“Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

James 2:14–17

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

23

DESTRUCTION

Not Connected

No Commandment Kept

- First commandment – Love God
- Second commandment – Love others

Matthew 22:36–40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”



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DESTRUCTION

Not Connected

No Commandment Kept

Now And Later

- No peace with God
- Will be gathered for destruction

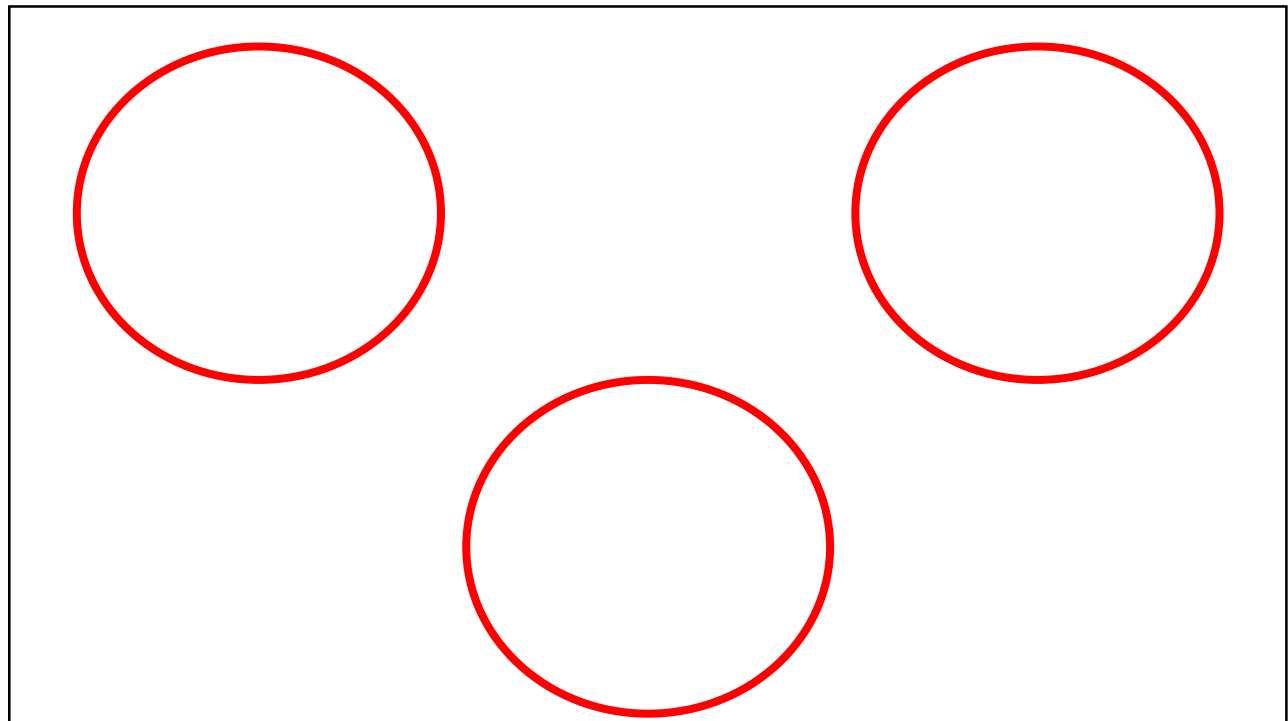


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ARE YOU CONNECTED TO THE TRUE VINE?



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