

## Abide In Jesus

Last week - Truth is not a what but rather, Truth is a Who

This week - Being a Christ follower is about our relationship not our activities

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1-23-25*

*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. Psalm 127:1-2*

*Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord! Psalm 134:1-2*

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 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. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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. John 15:1-2; 4-6*

1) To abide union with our Lord depends on His grace. Faith itself is rooted in the activity of God. It is the Father who, as the divine Gardener, has grafted us into Christ. It is Christ, by His Word, who has cleansed us to fit us for union with Himself (15:3).

If a branch remains or abides attached to the vine in such a way that it is receiving all that the branch has to give, then that is a picture of what John means by believing or trusting Jesus. He says in John 1:12, *"To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

2) union with Christ means being obedient to Him. *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you"* (John 15:7a).

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," Ephesians 5:18,*

Abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections. In other words, our relationship to Christ is intimately connected to our relationship with Jesus.

3) Christ underlines a further principle, "Abide in My love" (15:9), and states very clearly what this implies: the believer rests his or her life on the love of Christ (the love of the One who lays down His life for His friends, v. 13).

Jesus gets very specific about what is flowing between the vine and the branch. He mentions words — his words — his love, and his joy.

John 15:9 states, *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love."*

Also, John 15:11 says, *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."*

*"If we are not united to the vine, nothing of any lasting value will come from us."*

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 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.*

Hebrews 10:23-25

- **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Revelation 22:17*

WHAT 3 PEOPLE CAN YOU INVITE TO CHURCH NEXT WEEK?

*Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him. John 4:28-30*

- **EVERYONE IS NEEDED.**

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

*The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable... 1 Cor 12:21-22*

- **EVERYONE IS CHANGED.**

*...Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13*

*The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power...and you will be changed into a different person.*

1 Samuel 10:6