

How to Abide in God

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – June 29, 2008

John 15:1-8

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ABIDE IN HIM?

Being the branch is a simple thing.

- It grows out of the vine or tree
- No responsibility except to receive nourishment from the root
- In due time it bears fruit

Abiding in Christ requires...

1. ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE

The branch has nothing to do. It depends on the vine for everything.

The vine does the work and the branch just enjoys the fruit.

The vine sinks its roots deep in search of nutrition.

It even turns "waste" into fruit.

The nutrition passed between the vine and the branches is continuous...

Just as the spiritual nutrition between God's people and His Holy Spirit must also be continuous.

Are you Absolutely Dependant on God as your source of spiritual nutrition?

Abiding in Christ requires...

2. DEEP RESTFULNESS

Since the branch comes from the vine it doesn't worry.
The branch knows that the vine will provide all its needs.

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Jesus says..."Abide in Me... Rest in Me."

Abiding in Christ requires...

3. MUCH FRUITFULNESS

Jesus speaks of Fruit (v. 2)

Jesus speaks of More Fruit (v. 2)

And finally He speaks of MUCH Fruit (v. 5)

Jesus says, "You can't bear fruit apart from Me."

The sap of the Heavenly Vine is The Holy Spirit.

In order to bear fruit,

we must be filled with The Holy Spirit.

In order to bear more fruit,

we must be filled with more of The Holy Spirit.

In order to bear much fruit,

we must be filled constantly with The Holy Spirit.

Abiding in Christ requires...

4. CLOSE COMMUNION

We cannot be healthy Branches where healthy sap flows,
unless we take time for regular communion with God.

He cannot give us the blessing of His unbroken fellowship,
unless we are willing to take the time to be intimate with Him.

Abiding is the work of the heart clinging to and resting in Jesus Christ.

TAKE TIME TO BE ALONE WITH CHRIST.

Nothing can replace our need for that.

Abiding in Christ requires...

5. ABSOLUTE SURRENDER

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Do you desire to Live in the Spirit?

Immerse yourself in God. Immerse yourself in the Spirit.

ABIDE IN HIM!

Romans 13:14

... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ