

## Abide in Christ

John 15:1-17

Dr. Shane Moore, Oct. 20, 2024

**I. A Believer's Source (John 15:1-5)** Jesus is speaking to his disciples in the end of chapter 14 about the Holy Spirit coming in the absence of Christ. This Holy Spirit produces fruit in a believer. This reason it produces fruit is because it is connected to the source, Jesus Christ. In verse 1 we see another "I am" statement showing the divinity of Christ. He is the true vine. Verse 2 notes that fruit is produced for those who are in Christ and no fruit for those who aren't. What does fruit look like? Paul shares this in Galatians 5:22-23: ***"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*** In verses 4-5, Jesus makes it clear that we can not produce fruit without Him and we can do nothing apart from Him. Jesus uses the word Abide, to mean remain, stay, endure in Christ. This reminds me of the sower and the seed illustration in Luke 8:4-15 in which Jesus notes that many will be warm to the idea of the gospel, but never fully surrender to Christ. Many will depart from Christ when hardship, persecution, or the thirst for materialism outweighs ones' thirst for Christ! Only those who are connected to the vine of Jesus, will produce fruit! He is the source! Are you connected to the source?

**II. An Unbeliever's Separation from God (John 15:6)** Those who are separated from Christ, the vine, will unfortunately spend eternity in Hell. Adam Clarke, 1700s theologian, notes five things that happen to a person who is separated from Christ, the source, the true vine. The person who does not abide in Christ is:

*"1. Cut off from Jesus, having not title to him or to his salvation. 2. He or she is withered - deprived of all the influences of God's grace and Spirit; loses all his heavenly unction; becomes indifferent, cold, and dead to every holy and spiritual word and work. 3. He or she is gathered - becomes (through the judgment of God) again united with backsliders like himself and other workers of iniquity; and, being abandoned to his own heart and Satan, he is, 4. Cast into the fire - separated from God's people, from God himself, and from the glory of his power. And, 5. He is burned - is eternally tormented with the devil and his angels, and with all those who have lived and died in their iniquity. Reader! pray to God that this may never be thy portion."*

I plead with you this morning, to make sure that you are in Christ, if there is a question, please seek out Bro. Dalton or myself, we'd love to counsel you on this matter. The most important thing that a person can do is be connected to Christ, the true vine!

**III. A Believer's Satisfaction in Christ (John 15:7-11)** Christ is our true satisfaction. Here is a list of just a few benefits we gain from satisfaction in Him alone. 1. We can ask God through prayer (v.7). 2. We can receive from God and He is glorified as the giver, showing that we are His. (vv. 7-8) 3. Love from God. (vv. 9-10). 4. Complete joy. (v. 11). Some are not satisfied in Christ,

because they do not truly know Him. He brings joy! What do you find the most satisfaction in? Do you thirst for the sewage of this world or for Jesus the Savior of this world!

**IV. A Believer's Significant Identity, Love (John 15:12-17)** Love is the uniform that a believer wears that signifies their involvement in the Army of God. A love for God, his people, and his creation, is the mark in which a believer sets themselves apart from the unbeliever. Love requires the power of the Holy Spirit and is listed first in the Galatians 5:22 list of the fruit of the Spirit. Love is what a lost world will see as the supernatural attribute of God that will transform a lost world. Love shows Christ, shares Christ, and serves Christ as we are connected to Christ!

Jesus shares a very clear message recorded in chapter 15. Are you connected to Jesus, the true vine? If not, make it so today, you are not guaranteed tomorrow!