

Message Two  
**The True Vine**  
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**Living in the Vine**

Scripture Reading: John 15:4-5, 7, 12, 16-17; 1 Cor. 1:9; 6:17; 1 John 1:3

- I. We abide in the vine by living in the mingled spirit—John 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17:**
- A. As branches of the vine, we need to abide in the vine—John 15:4-5:
    - 1. To be in the Lord is a matter of union; to abide in the Lord is a matter of fellowship—1 Cor. 1:9, 30.
    - 2. Our abiding in Christ as the vine depends on seeing a clear vision that we are branches in the vine; once we see that we are branches in the vine, we need to maintain the fellowship between us and the Lord—John 15:2.
  - B. The vine lives in all the branches, and all the branches live in the vine; they live together with one another—vv. 4-5, 7.
  - C. To abide in the Lord is to be one spirit with Him, that is, to live in the mingled spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:4:
    - 1. The word *joined* in 1 Corinthians 6:17 refers to the believers' organic union with the Lord through believing into Him—John 3:15-16; 15:4-5.
    - 2. The expression *one spirit* indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit:
      - a. The spirit, which is the mingling of our spirit and the Lord's Spirit into one spirit, is both the Spirit of the Lord and our spirit—Rom. 8:4; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
      - b. All our spiritual experiences, such as our fellowship with the Lord, our prayer to Him, and our living with Him, are in this mingled spirit.
    - 3. Whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to the mingled spirit—Eph. 3:9, 5; 1:17; 2:22; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18.
- II. We need to learn to pray as branches in the vine—John 15:4-5, 7, 16:**
- A. Effective prayers are the issue of our abiding in the Lord and of His words abiding in us—v. 7.
  - B. When we abide in the Lord, and His words abide in us, there will be a desire in us that comes out of His words—1 John 5:14-15:
    - 1. We will touch the Lord's feeling and understand His intention; then spontaneously we will have His desire in us.
    - 2. His desire will become our desire; what He wants will be what we want; and we will pray according to this desire.
  - C. The Lord will answer this kind of prayer, because it issues from our abiding in the Lord and from His words abiding in us—John 15:16.

**III. When we abide in Christ as the vine, we have the church life—1 Cor. 1:2, 9, 30; 6:17; 12:27:**

- A. We can have the church life only by living in the mingled spirit—in Christ as the life-giving Spirit mingled with our spirit; we should remain in this mingled spirit for the church life—15:45b; 6:17; 1:2; 12:27.
- B. The branches are one with the vine and with one another—John 17:11, 21-23.
- C. The church life, the Body, is a life of loving one another; we need to love one another in the life of Christ, in the love of Christ, and in the commission of Christ—15:12, 16-17.
- D. When we abide in Christ, we participate in the wonderful fellowship among the co-branches—vv. 4-5; 1 John 1:3-7:
  - 1. The inner life of all the branches is one and this life should continually circulate through all the branches—vv. 2-3.
  - 2. Fellowship also implies a mutual flowing among the believers—1 John 1:3.
  - 3. This fellowship is the reality of the church life—1 Cor. 1:2, 9.
  - 4. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—1 John 1:3.
  - 5. All the local churches are one Body, and within this Body there is the circulation of the divine life; the circulation of the divine life in the Body brings all the members of the Body into oneness—1 Cor. 1:2, 9; Eph. 4:4.