

1 John – God is Love: Week Two
What it Means to Have Divine Protection

Day Two: What it Means to Abide in Christ

Read 1 John 2:3-29

Today our focus is going to be abiding in Christ. In today's reading, did you notice how often the word "abide" was used? Together with the rest of 1 John, the word "abide" is found 20 times! If you are using the New International Version, the word is "remain", but most translations use the word, "abide".

The Greek word for "abide" is "meno". It means to dwell, endure, remain, stand, tarry or continue.

So, think of "abide" as staying real close to Jesus, and dwelling there. Jesus was the first person to use the word, "meno", and John recorded His words in the Gospel of John Chapter 15. Jesus was with His disciples at the Last Supper, the night He was betrayed.

Read John 15:1-27 and answer the following questions.

1. Why are we told to abide in Christ (the Vine)? (v.4)

2. Jesus said we must abide in Him and in something else. What else are we to abide in? (v. 7a) _____

3. If we are keeping His words in our heart and mind, and therefore, keeping His commandments, what can we expect when we pray? (v.7b)

4. Name two benefits of our bearing fruit (the result of our abiding in Christ)? (v.8)

5. Try to imagine the great love the Father has for His Son, Jesus. Remember when John the Baptist baptized Jesus, they heard the Father say from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

Now, imagine the great love Jesus has for you. How does Jesus's love for you compare to the love of the Father for His Son, Jesus? (v.9)

We are told to _____ in His love.

6. How can we abide in His love? (v.10)

_____.

7. Just as Jesus loves us, we are to (v.12)

_____.

8. What is the amazing result that will happen when we abide in His love and keep His commandments? (v.11)

_____.

Now turn back to 1 John 2 - Re-read verses 3-11

9. Who is our example (role model) as we live in this world? (v. 6)

_____.

10. What will be the proof that you are abiding in the Light (Truth)? (v. 9-10)

_____.

Did you notice any similarities between the two chapters we read? Let's do a few comparisons of the two chapters.

1. Read John 15:10 and 1 John 2:3-4. What will be the proof of abiding in Christ?

2. Read John 15:12 and 1 John 2:9-11. What will be the result of our abiding in Christ?

3. Read John 15:23 and 1 John 2:23. What is a clear indication someone is NOT abiding?

4. Read John 15:18-19 and 1 John 2:15-17. What is an obstacle to abiding, or evidence that you are NOT abiding? _____

5. Read John 15:26 and 1 John 2:27. What has God given to us to help us abide in Christ? _____

If you looked up all of these passages and wrote out the answers – good for you!!! That was a lot of work – but hopefully it helped to give you some time to reflect on the whole concept of abiding in Christ, and why it is so important.

We are told thru John under the Spirit's anointing, that if we SAY we are in the light, our words mean nothing. If we call ourselves Christians – but do not abide in Christ – our words mean nothing. John gives us the only real way to know if someone is abiding in Christ. They will bear fruit that remains. This is the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23) If there is evidence of these qualities in your life, then you are bearing fruit.

God wants us to remain or abide in Him so that His love will remain in us. By allowing His Words of Truth to remain or abide in our hearts and minds, we will keep His commandments. (I know this is difficult! The spiritual battle we fight is for the control of our hearts and minds.) And if we keep His commandments, we will love God and love people. It also means we will love God and people so much that we are willing to give up our own selfish desires and ambitions for their sake.

And what will be the result of this life-style? We are back to the original purpose for John's letter. The result will be fellowship with God and with His Son Jesus – as we abide in His love. And what then, is the result of our abiding in Christ? You got it....fullness of JOY!!!!