

Week 3 – Remain in Me and I will remain in you: Maintaining a
Walk with Jesus

Orenco Church (Winter 2026)

15 *"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, as I also 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 you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are 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 done for you. **8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

9 *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.*

John 15:4 (NIV) states: *"Remain in me, as I also 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."* This verse emphasizes the necessity of maintaining a close, dependent relationship with Jesus to experience spiritual growth.

Key Aspects of John 15:4

- Abide/Remain: The Greek word *meno* (abide, remain, dwell, or stay) implies a continuous, habitual connection to Jesus, rather than a fleeting one. It is the conscious, daily decision to maintain an intimate, dependent relationship with Jesus, allowing His words, love and life to shape our actions and character.
- The Analogy: Jesus is the "true vine," and believers are the branches. A branch cannot survive or produce fruit if it is cut off from the vine. He is our source of spiritual life, while God the Father is the gardener. We are followers - our branches must remain connected to Him to bear fruit.
- Fruit Bearing: Spiritual fruit—representing character development, good works, and alignment with God's purpose—is the natural result of this abiding connection, not something produced by self-effort.
- Dependence: The verse highlights that apart from Jesus, believers can do nothing of eternal significance. Depending on Jesus means relying entirely on Christ for salvation, for daily strength, for guidance rather than on self-sufficiency. We acknowledge our own personal inadequacy, embracing "God with us" (Immanuel) in all circumstances - even hardships - and trusting His faithfulness to provide, sustain and refine. This active, trust-filled partnership 's transforms daily life by shifting focus from personal anxiety to God peace.

- Key aspects include:
 - Total Reliance
 - Sufficiency in Trials
 - Daily Guidance
 - Surrender of Control

This verse is part of Jesus's "Vine and Branches" teaching, urging disciples to stay connected to him to experience his love, life, and fruitfulness.

***18** "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **20** Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. **21** They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. **24** If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. **25** But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'*

The "Vine and the Branches" passage in John 15 is a core Christian metaphor where Jesus describes Himself as the "true vine," God as the "vinedresser," and believers as "branches". It emphasizes that staying

intimately connected ("abiding") to Jesus is essential for spiritual life, bearing fruit, and, ultimately, producing good works for God's glory.

Key Themes and Interpretations:

- **The Metaphor Defined:** Jesus is the source of life and nourishment (the vine), while followers (the branches) depend entirely on Him. The Bible identifies Jesus as the primary source of both physical and eternal life, with key verses highlighting Him as the Creator and sustainer of existence. John 1:4 tells us explicitly, *"In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."* We also read in 1 John 5:11-12, *"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."*
- **Abiding (Remaining):** Believers must maintain a close, personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, scripture, and obedience. Abiding in Jesus is the continuous, daily act of remaining in a close, dependent, and loving relationship with Him, symbolized as branches to a vine (John 15:5). It involves cultivating intimacy through prayer, studying Scripture, obedience to His commands, and reliance on the Holy Spirit to produce spiritual fruit.
- **Fruit-Bearing:** A connected branch naturally produces spiritual fruit (good works, character), which glorifies God. It signifies growing in Christlike character (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - Galatians 5:22-23), allowing His life to flow through us.
- **Pruning:** God (the vinedresser) removes fruitless branches and prunes fruitful ones to make them even more productive. Pruning is not punishment, but a loving, purposeful act of removing distractions, old patterns, or limiting habits to foster growth in character and a deeper connection with Christ.

- Consequences of Disconnection: Branches that do not remain in the vine wither, die, and are removed. We can risk a loss of intimacy with God, increased vulnerability to temptation, spiritual stagnation, God's discipline, and, ultimately, a wasted life that fails to bring glory to God.

Contextual Meaning

The teaching in John 15:1-11 highlights that apart from a relationship with Jesus, spiritual life is impossible. *It is a call to dependency, trust, and active engagement in a relationship with God.*

Maintaining a walk with Jesus is a daily, intentional relationship focused on following Him, not just obeying rules. It requires consistent communication through prayer, reading the Bible to understand His will, and surrendering your will to His daily. This lifelong journey involves trusting Him in challenges, seeking fellowship, and walking in the Spirit.

Key Ways to Maintain a Close Walk with Jesus . . .

Consistent Daily Prayer and Scripture
Repentance
Total Surrender
Obedience and Following
Living in Community
Walking in the Spirit

Consistent Daily Prayer and Scripture:

- Start Small

- Use Scripture as a Guide

- Establish a Routine

- Pray throughout the Day
 - Proven Methods

 - ACTS Method

 - Lectio Divina

 - Journaling

Repentance – Regularly confess sins and turn away from the things that hinder your walk.

- Contrition/Sorrow:

- Conviction:

- Confession:

- Conversion/Turning Away:

- Restitution:

Total Surrender - Acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior, surrendering your will to His, each day.

Communicate with Jesus through prayer and read the Bible to understand His character and promises.

- Total Trust:
- Daily Commitment
- Internal and External
- Biblical Foundation

Obedience and Following - Applying His teachings on love, humility, and service to your life.

It is the active, daily process of aligning one's life with His teaching and character, serving as evidence of faith rather than a requirement for salvation.

Following Jesus involves the voluntary commitment to trust His ways over personal or worldly desires, often requiring sacrifice and transformation in daily actions.

- Definition

- A fruit of Faith
- Discipleship and Transformation
- The “Law of Life”
- Practical Application

Living in Community - engage with church and fellow believers for encouragement, accountability and support.

It is intentionally sharing life with other believers to foster spiritual growth, accountability, and mutual support, reflecting the love of the Trinity.

It deepens relationships through service, shared meals, and vulnerability, providing a “sanctuary” that helps us align our lives with Christ Jesus.

- Biblical Foundation
 - Accountability and Growth
 - Hospitality
 - Support and Belonging

Living in Community - Challenges

The process requires navigating different personalities - both introverts and extroverts - and requires patience and intentionality.

The goal is to live out the Gospel together, demonstrating God's love to the world through genuine, intentional, interconnected relationships.

Walking in the Spirit - Depend on the Holy Spirit for guidance, strength, and to produce spiritual fruit.

The continual daily practice of relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance, strength, and empowerment rather than yielding to selfish desires (the flesh).

It involves living in obedience to God's Word, staying sensitive to the Spirit's leading and producing "fruit" (see Galatians 5:22-23).

- Active Submission:
- Bible Engagement:
- Constant Dependence:
- Internal Conflict:
- Practical Steps:

- Start the Day with God
- Abide in His Word
- Confess and Reconnect
- Walk in Faith

Walking with Jesus is not about perfection, but about walking in close, habitual fellowship, ensuring you stay alongside Him rather than lagging behind.